



FAMILY SERVICE
12th July 2026



Sea Sunday

Welcome to this service. You are invited to join in with the words in **bold**. When words are in ***bold italic*** they are sung.

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 you are welcome to use if you'd find that helpful.

Today we will hear about the work of the Mission to the Seafarers and support them through prayer and action.

You have been given a 'bottle' as you came in. If at point during the service you'd like to write prayer, or something or someone you'd like to pray for please do. These will be attached to net on the altar towards the end of the service as we offer intercessions.

If you have knitting to donate please leave it on top of the altar. It will be blessed during the service.

Welcome

The service leader greets us with these words, please remain seated.

One: We meet in the name of God the Creator who gathered the waters to form the seas.

We meet in the name of God the Son who calmed the storm and walked on water.

We meet in the name of the God the Holy Spirit, who swept over the face of the waters in creation.

Many: Amen.

We receive words of welcome and an introduction to the service.

Hymn: Jesus where'er your people meet
We stand as able to sing

Jesus, where'er your people meet,
there they behold your mercy seat;
where'er they seek you, you are found,
and ev'ry place is hallowed ground.

For you, within no walls confined,
are dwelling in the humble mind;
such ever bring you where they come,
and going, take you to their home.

Dear Shepherd of love, who we adore,
your former mercies here restore;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of your saving name.

Here may we prove the pow'r of pray'r
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heav'n before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but you are near;
nor short your arm, nor deaf your ear;
O rend the heav'ns, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts your own.

Adapted from William Cowper, number 492 in Common Praise

Confession

We take some time to consider the sins of the world, and our sin.

We remain seated to confess our sin, using these responses

One: Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Many: Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from
our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Receiving God's forgiveness

We are assured of God's love and forgiveness by the service leader;

One: May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins
heal and strengthen you by the Spirit
and raise you to new life through Christ our Lord.

Many: Amen

Reading: Sailor's paraphrase of Psalm 23

We sit as we listen to the morning's reading.

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.
He guides me across the dark waters.
He steers me through deep channels.
He keeps my log.

Yea, though I sail 'mid the thunders
and tempest of life,
I shall dread no anger, for He is with me;
His love and His care, shelter me.
He prepares a quiet harbour before me.
He anoints the waves with oil
My ship rides calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight
shall guide me on the voyage I take,
And I will rest in the heaven's port forever.

Reflection 1: Sally's story: Pilot, Guide and Steer

We remain seated as we listen to the reflection.

Hymn: The Lord's my Shepherd

We stand as able to sing number 594 in Common Praise

Reflection 2: He keeps my log

We remain seated as we listen to the reflection.

Hymn: God who formed the mighty ocean

We stand as able to sing

God who formed the mighty oceans,
loosed the winds upon their ways,
gave the circling planets motion
in their round of ceaseless praise,
hear our thanks for hearts that love us,
for the hour that gave us birth,

heirs of starry skies above us
and the seas of all the earth.

Hold us within your care unsleeping
all who face tempestuous seas,
harvests from the waters reaping,
God be thanked for such as these.
Earth is rich beyond all measure,
may we prize her gifts the more,
we who find our work or pleasure
on the seas or by the shore.

Guard, when stormy waves are breaking,
those who cross the oceans wide;
share with them their watchful waking,
be with them through wind and tide.
Christ our Saviour, friend unfailing
as the seas of life we roam,
chart our course and guide our sailing
safe to harbour and to home.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Reflection: The Seafarers at harbours

We sit to listen. At the end of the reflection the knitting is blessed

Hymn: Eternal Father strong to save

We stand as able to sing number 413 in Common Praise

Final Reflection: What is our voyage?

We sit to listen.

Prayers

We remain seated as we are led in prayer. At the end of each bidding this response is used;

One: Lord in your mercy

Many: Hear our prayer

Our prayers conclude 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.**

Notices

We remain seated as we listen to any family news and notices, including any banns of marriage.

Offertory Hymn: I The Lord of Sea and Sky

We stand as able to join in our final hymn, number 470 in Common Praise. During which we will offer any cash donations to the Mission to the Seafarers. You can also donate online, if you do so please let Simone our treasurer know as the PCC will match fund today's donations up to total the value of £500.

Blessing

We remain standing as able

One: Lord God,
be the ship that holds us in the sea of life,
be the rudder that keeps us on the straight course.
May your Spirit fill our sails to carry us through each day,
and keep our bodies strong so that we may paddle steadfastly on in the voyage of life.
And the blessing of God...

Many: Amen

One: We go, with God's blessing.

Many: We go, filled with God's love! Amen.

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served at the back of church after the service. Do stay if you can.

We love that our youngest members feel free and able to be themselves in their church. Please do be mindful of areas where hot drinks are served and carried and ask your children to take extra care when in these. Thank you!

The fairtrade stall is available after the service today. Do take a look at the lovely items on offer, payment can be made by card or cash.

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 12 th July 10:30am:	Family Service: Sea Sunday
Wednesday 15 th July 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th July 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 22 nd July 10am:	Holy Communion

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: 17th July, 21st August, 18th September 10am - 10.45am. If you want to know more please speak to Fran.

SCRIPTURAL REASONING – JULY 19TH 6-8PM, IN THE HALL

All welcome! We usually share some snacks and 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! For more information please ask Jenni.

Join us for the Big Butterfly Count - Sunday 19th July

The Big Butterfly Count is a nationwide citizen science survey designed to help assess the health of our environment. After the service on 19 July, all are warmly invited to spend 15 minutes helping to count butterflies in the church gardens. Alternatively, you're very welcome to take part at home at your convenience and log your results on the Big Butterfly website or app - do also let the Eco Group know what you spotted! The event runs from 17 July to 9 August.

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 microfibres 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.

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 Communities Leaders Summit at Sandwell Council on Tuesday, and Jenni as she goes to engage with other local faith leaders and councillors.
- All who work in our schools, and for those finishing primary school.
- The staff and patients at Cygnet hospital Oldbury.
- Each of us, that we would know God's peace.

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 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.
- It can't be aimed at folk who might be on child sex register (because of the amount of children's groups in the hall)
- Cause of conflict with parking (i.e. 6 cars during halls busiest times)
- Minimal noise, with no activities after 10pm.
- 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?

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	cameoatsthildas@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.

Acknowledgements

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