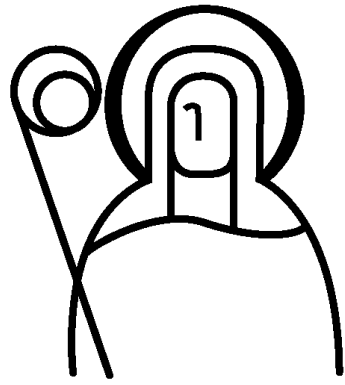




ST Hilda's
Warley Woods

Sunday 23rd August 2026 - Trinity 12



Mother of Moses, by Simeon Solomon 1860¹

¹ <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57539>

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

Opening Hymn: Jesus stand among us
Number 381 in Mission Praise, all three verses

Collect²

O Son of Man, we live amongst people
fearful of losing position
and scared about losing control.
But your word is carried to us
by children and powerless people:
Unexpected and unnoticed.
When the pressures of life force us to conform,
come, renew our thinking and embolden us, we pray.
For you alone carry the secret of living alternatively
in a world of dominating powers.
O Son of Man, come to us we pray. **Amen.**

First Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over

² Graham Turner, *Alternative Collects: Prayers to a Disruptive & Compassionate God*, Sacristy Press, 2018, page 27

them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three

months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Gradual hymn: Deep in the shadows of the past

Deep in the shadows of the past
Far out from the settled lands
Some nomads travelled with their God
Across the desert sands
The dawn of hope for humankind
Was glimpsed by them alone

A promise calling them ahead
A future yet unknown

While others bowed to changeless gods
They met a mystery
God with an uncompleted name
'I am what I will be'
And by their tents around their fires
In story song and law
They praised remembered handed on
A past that promised more

From Abraham to Nazareth
The promise changed and grew
While some remembering the past
Recorded what they knew
And some in letters or laments
In prophecy and praise
Recovered held and re-expressed
New hope for changing days

For all the writings that survived
For leaders long ago
Who sifted chose and then preserved
The Bible that we know
Give thanks and find its promise yet
Our comfort strength and call

The working model for our faith
Alive with hope for all

Lyrics by Brian Wren, Tune: Kingsfold

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Offertory Hymn: At the name of Jesus

Number 380 in Common Praise

Communion hymn: Listen my people

“Listen, my people, here is my challenge:
Can you be loving as I love you?
Those who offend you, hurt or ill-treat you,
Like you God’s children, they’re precious too!”

Do you mean us, Lord? Can it be done, Lord?
Self-giving love that looks for no gain?
If you’ll stay close we’ll give it a try, Lord,
Showing your mercy, sharing your pain.

“Listen, my people, here is my challenge:
Can you forgive as I forgive you?
Those who have failed you, pained or betrayed you,
Do not condemn, you’ve all done it too.”

Do you mean us, Lord? Can it be done, Lord?
You will repay, so leave it to you?
Help us to trust and let you be judge, Lord.
As you forgive, may we forgive too.

Words: © Gillian Collins, tune: Bunessan

Final hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning
Number 398 in Common Praise

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 26 th August 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th August 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 2 nd September 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 6 th September 10:30am:	Holy Communion

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

This week's sanctuary flowers are the gift of Mrs C Southall.

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 18th September 10am - 10.45am. If you want to know more please speak to Fran.

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.

AUGUST ECO TIP

Times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Provide water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers and foxes could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and

drink without drowning. These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation. See this blog on looking after wildlife in the heat for more warm weather eco tips: arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat

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: 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;

- Sophia Hackett, as she is baptised today.
- Katrina and James, who marry here on Friday.
- Young people who have received their exam results.

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 regularity 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

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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.

Acknowledgements

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