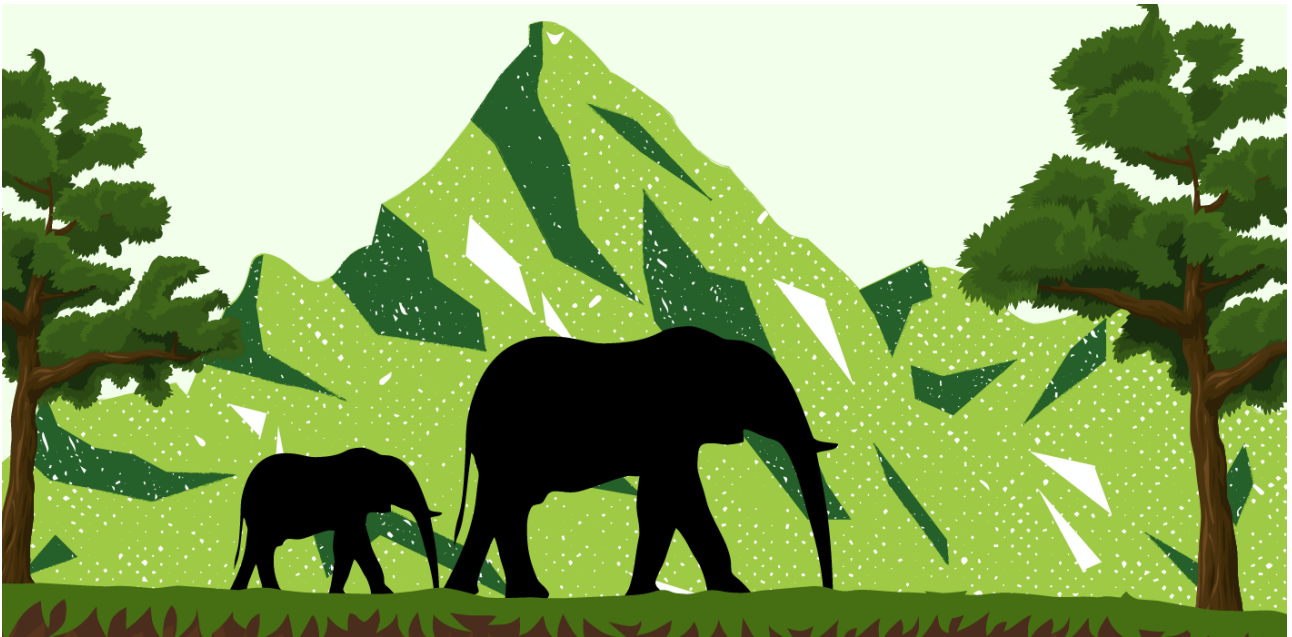




Celebration of Animals

Sunday 13th September 2026



Welcome to this service. Please join in with the words in **bold**.

If you have an animal with you please keep it on a lead or in its container.

We have water bowls near the entrance and cleaning products should there be any accidents. Your animals remain your responsibility throughout the service. Please don't worry if they are noisy, they are very welcome with all their noises!

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 with toys, crafts and books you are welcome to use if you'd find that helpful.

The left side aisle is reserved this morning for anyone who finds being near animals difficult for any reason. Please don't bring your animals there.

Getting to know each other

Whilst waiting for the service to start take some time to introduce yourself to those who you are sitting near. You might like to talk about these questions;

- Do you have any pets? Who are they, why are they special?
- What animals do you find the most fascinating?
- What concerns do you have for animals in the world today?

Welcome

We remain seated as we receive words of welcome, concluding with these responses, inspired by Psalm 148¹.

One: All God's family, come and praise our Creator!

Many: We come with eyes to see, and ears to flap and hear,

One: All creatures lift your voices in singing, mewing and barking.

Many: We come to celebrate God's marvelous creation!

¹ <https://worshipwords.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Blessing-of-Animal-service-Leaders-Sheets-1.pdf>

One: With dogs and cats, hamsters and snakes

Many: We come to thank the Giver of all life!

One: All creatures that crawl, all sea serpents that swim and
feathered friends that fly

Many: We come to praise our Creator!

Opening Hymn: Morning has broken

We stand as able to sing number 260 in Common Praise

Reflection: What creatures have we encountered this week?

We sit for a time of interactive reflection.

Reading: 1 Kings 17:2-7

We remain seated as we listen to the reading.

² The word of the Lord came to him, saying, ³ ‘Go from here and turn eastwards, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁴ You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.’ ⁵ So he went and did according to the word of the Lord; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. ⁷ But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Creatures as companions

We remain seated to listen to the reflection and ponder

Song: All Creatures of our God and King

We stand as able to sing number 250 in Common Praises, omitting verses 2,3 and 6.

Reflection: Stories from St Hilda's

We sit to listen to some stories about our creature companions at St Hilda's.

Blessings, Remembrance and Action

There is now an opportunity to receive a personal blessing for your pet. Please bring your pet, or a picture of your pet forward when instructed to do so. Each pet will receive a certificate.

If you'd like to remember a pet you loved who has died you are invited to the Remembrance corner to light a candle for them, remembering the light they shone in your life. You may also want to write their name on a paw and attach it to the board.

There is also an opportunity to engage in action to help animals. The Dog's Trust is asking the government to put in new legislation for fireworks, to protect animals. You can find out more and see how you can help here

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/support-us/campaigns-appeals/fireworks>



There are also a few printed copies of this information on the table by the sound desk if you don't have access to a smartphone.

If you need to connect to our wifi these are the details:

Network: BT-Q9C22K

Password: Hilda680

We listen to Ps104 Project Africa, who sing these words...

Praise the Lord, O my soul

for his great works.

He wraps himself in light

He stretches heavens like a tent

He makes the clouds his chariot

He rides on the wings of the wind

He makes the flames his servants

He set the foundation of the earth

It can never be moved, be moved

You cause the earth to tremble at your sight

The mountains smoke at your touch

You make the winds your messengers

You set a place for oceans

They cannot cross their boundaries. Hhummmm

Praise the Lord, O my soul

for his great works.

He makes the springs to pour water

into the ravines constantly

They flow between the mountains

They give waters to animals

the antelopes and all the beast

The flying birds can nest around

and sing among the branches

He waters mountains from above

The earth is satisfied by his work

He makes the grass to grow for the cows

and plants for man to cultivate

and forth his food to bring from the earth

The wine to gladden his heart

And oil to make his face shine

and bread that sustains his life. Hhummmm

Praise the Lord, O my soul
He who made all things
The sun knows when to go down
The moon shows us the seasons
You make darkness to be light
You watch the animals of the field
The lions roaring for a prey
You made the rivers and the sea
The creatures living in the sea
They look to you to provide
You feed them in the proper time
When you provide for them they receive
But when you hide your face, hide your face,
You terrify them all, terrify
And when their breath you take, take away,
They all return to dust, return to dust. Hhummmm!

Come and praise the Lord
for his great works.
May your glory endure forever
May you rejoice in your works
I will sing to the Lord all my life
I'll praise him all my life, all my life
May I please with you with my thoughts
As I rejoice in the Lord
But may the sinners vanish
The wicked be no more, no more.
O praise the Lord, O my soul
His works are wonderful, wonderful Hhummmm!

Offertory Hymn: God, creation comes from you

We stand 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.

God, creation comes from you,
praise and glory are your due;
through your Son all things were made
and your splendour is displayed.
thank you for the nights and days,
for the stars on which we gaze,
sun to warm and give us light,
moon to keep earth's rhythms right.

Earth proclaims your mighty hand
in the air and sea and land -
deserts, forests, rivers, streams,
snowflakes, rain and sunlight beams;
for the life-forms that abound,
for the joys of light and sound,
for the wonders that amaze
we now bring our heartfelt praise.

For the apes and yaks and hares,
horses, donkeys, polar bears;
for the goats, the sheep, the whales,
and the monkeys with their tails;
for the camel and the sow,
for the chicken, bee and cow,
for the sparrow, eagle, dove,
for the dogs and cats we love.

For the animals, our friends,
on whom much of life depends,
for the fish within the sea,
birds of beauty flying free.
You created humankind,

gave us body, spirit, mind,
breathed in us your living breath,
promised life instead of death.

Lord, forgive us for our sin;
we have harmed the world we're in,
teach us all your gifts to share
that the poor may not despair.
then, as children of new birth,
in new heavens and new earth
we will worship, hearts ablaze,
joining in creation's praise,
joining in creation's praise.

Michael Baughen (b. 1930)

© Michael Baughen, administered by The Jubilate Group

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel as we are led in prayer. Our prayers start with a confession;

One: For the times we have hurt or teased animals in our care

Many: God forgive us and help us.

One: For the times we have forgotten or neglected to look after the animals that depend on us.

Many: God forgive us and help us.

One: For the times we have failed to protect the environment in which animals live, here and across the world

Many: God forgive us and help us.

Absolution

We are given assurance of God's forgiveness with these words;

One: May the God of love and power
forgive *us* and free *us* from *our* sins,
heal and strengthen *us* by his Spirit,
and raise *us* to new life in Christ our Lord.

Many: Amen

We continue to be led in prayer. At the end of each bidding;

One: Lord of Creation

Many: Hear our prayer

We conclude our prayers 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.**

Or you may like to use this version by Steven Shakespeare:

Divine mother, divine father: to be in you is to be in heaven.

May we hear the wonder that echoes in your name.

May we accept no rule but the rule of love.

May we never tolerate the evil of hunger.

May the hurts we cause be forgiven

and the hurts we receive be healed.

May we remember that we are fragile

and cherish the life we share with all.

For all love, and life and power, is the gift of the Spirit. Amen.

Notices

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

Poem

We remain seated as we listen to a poem written and performed by Steve Knowles.

Closing hymn: All thing bright and beautiful

We stand as able to sing number 251 in Common Praise.

Blessing and Dismissal

We remain standing to receive God's blessing.

One: The love of the Creator be all around you.
 The love of the Saviour be above and beneath you,
 The love of the Holy Spirit be within you;
 And the blessing of God, The Creator, The Redeemer
 and The Sustainer,
 Be with you and those you love today and forever.
Amen.

One: Friends, go in the peace and gentle wisdom of God, to care for all God's creatures, with feathers, paws, tails or fur, with a grateful heart and loving hands. Let the people say...

Many: Amen! Thanks be to God.

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served after the service (treats for animals too!) Do stay if you can.

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 9 th September 10am:	Holy Communion
Friday 18 th September 10am:	Breathing Space
Sunday 20 th September 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 23 rd September 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th September 10:30am:	Holy Communion

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

This week's sanctuary flowers are the gift of The Guides

BAT NIGHT – 7:30PM TONIGHT!

After rescheduling due to the rain, we're going to try again this evening - depending on the forecast! We'll spend a relaxed 45 minutes in our church gardens watching for bats as they emerge at dusk. As an Eco Church, we're keen to boost biodiversity in our church gardens and encourage and protect wildlife, so this is a chance to discover more about these fascinating creatures and see what takes flight as the sun sets. Everyone is welcome!

CONSERVATOIRE CONCERTS

Concerts given by Conservatoire students will resume at the end of September. The concerts last between 45 minutes and one hour. They take place twice a month, on the second Friday, starting at 13.00 and on the last Saturday, starting at 19.30.

The first two are on -

Saturday 26th September. Yuanyu Chen and Yun-Tzu Tsao (Soprano and piano)

Friday 9th October. Ciara Thompson (Piano)

Entry is free, however, donations are welcome to help cover costs of heating, performers rights and performer expenses. There is the chance to talk to these very talented musicians over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits after their recitals, which you will not get in a concert hall!

Please do your best to come and support these musicians.

If you wish to be kept up to date about concerts, please contact sthildasconcerts@gmail.com and we will add you to our mailing list.

SEPTEMBER ECO TIPS

The Season of Creation (1 September–4 October) is a time to celebrate God as Creator and sustainer of all life. We have a number of creation-focused events coming up: a **People's Emergency Briefing film screening** on Friday 11 September; an **Animal Service and Pet Blessing** on Sunday 13 September; a **Creation-themed Garden Pilgrimage** on Sunday 20 September; and a **Fair Trade stall** after the service on Sunday 27 September. On Saturday 3 October, come and help tidy and care for the front garden. Our **Harvest Service** will be on Sunday 11 October, with donations for St Mary's Pantry followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

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 Evoke 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."

Autumn dates – 17th and 18th September, 1st and 2nd October, 8th and 9th October, 5th and 6th November, 19th and 20th November and 3rd and 4th December.

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 needed to be completed before starting.

Please see Sue Eaton or ask the person serving you today 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 final date will be 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;

- Second year curates as they come to St Hilda's to learn about marriage ministry on Tuesday, and for Jenni as she leads them.
- Jenni and Diane as they offer chaplaincy at Cygnet hospital on Thursday.
- The Hut committee as it meets on Thursday.

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".		

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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