October 2026 News

Welcome to the Autumn St Hilda's quarterly news bulletin.

Special services and events this quarter:

Choral Evensong: Sunday 4th October 2026 6:30pm
We're delighted that a choir and organist from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire will be leading us in the music for this service.

Harvest Service and bring and share meal Sunday 11th October
Our annual family service

Commissioning at Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral: 18th October 2026, 3:30pm
As part of this service Bishop Michael will be commissioning all his advisors and the LGBT+ chaplaincy team. Our Curate Mother Diane Reeves will be commissioned as an LGBT+ Chaplain and our Vicar Jenni as The Bishop's Advisor for Interfaith Ministry. All are welcome to attend.

All Souls Commemoration Service: Sunday 1st November 6:30pm
If you would like the names of any loved ones who have died read out at the service pleased let Jenni know or add their names to the list in the porch.

Healing Service: Sunday 29th November 10:30am
During our Holy Communion Service prayers for healing and the anointing of oil will be offered.

Advent Carol Service: Sunday 29th November 6:30pm
An evening service with some traditional and modern Advent Carols.

<u>Christmas Services</u>

Christingle: Sunday 13th December 10:30am

Nativity: Saturday 12th December 3pm

Blue Christmas Service: Sunday 20th December 6:30pm

Crib and Communion: Thursday 24th December 10:30am

Carol Service: Thursday 24th December 6:30pm

Said Holy Communion: Thursday 24th December 8pm

Christmas Day Communion: Friday 25th December 10am

First Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion: Sunday 27th December 10:30am.

A flyer with these details to share with friends and neighbours will be available in November!

Eco Church October Update

People's Emergency Briefing

A real highlight for the Eco Group during the Season of Creation was hosting a screening of the **People's Emergency Briefing**. We welcomed more than 40 people, including some who travelled from Halesowen and Stourbridge, to hear some of the latest evidence about the climate and nature emergency, and to talk, listen, share ideas and reflect on what we had seen.



The evening didn't produce one grand solution. Instead, it produced something perhaps more useful: a room full of people asking questions together. We can't recommend the film enough, it's such an important watch. Look out for other community screenings in the future: www.nebriefing.org/screening-map

Bat Night

Another great event was our first **Bat Night**! Nineteen people, including some members of the church Youth Group, spent 45 minutes at dusk watching the skies. We had three bat sightings, which may well have been the same bat three times, but it was still a great thing to do together as a group. Fran prepared a bat quiz for us - did you know there are around 1,400 species of bat worldwide, including 18 species in the UK?

We were also recently provided with free audio-recording equipment by the Bat Conservation Trust. James set this up to record overnight, and we're currently awaiting the report of what it picked up!

Bats are an incredibly important part of our ecosystem, so we were delighted to have spotted some in our church grounds. The Eco Group is looking at ways to reduce light pollution and provide food sources for bats. We're still not sure whether the bat boxes are being used, but we continue to hope they will be one day!



Butterflies



As well as bats, we have also been spending some time counting butterflies.

After our morning service on 19th July, we took part in the annual **Big Butterfly Count**. We were delighted to spot six Gatekeepers and four Speckled Woods during our 15-minute count, along with lots of tiny mint moths flitting around the herb garden.

The Eco Group has plans to plant more wildflowers around the church grounds to create even better habitats for butterflies and other important pollinators, including bees and bats.



Community littler picking

We're now over a third of the way around the parish boundary with our litter picking. Our next meet-up will be on **5 November at 11am in Lightwoods Park**. All are welcome to come and help!

Composting

James has sourced a second compost bin for free, which you may notice close to the front of the church.

This will be used for composting pruning from the gardening group, flowers and foliage from flower arrangements, used tea bags and coffee from the kitchen, as well as fallen apples from the apple tree. The compost produced will then be used around the church gardens.

The apple tree didn't produce as many apples as last year, but there were still enough for James to produce a small batch of **chutney**. Look out for jars for sale, in return for a donation, during the Harvest Lunch.

The Great Cable Challenge

Are you one of the millions of people with a 'drawer of doom ' filled with old cables?

Join the millions taking one small action this International E-Waste Day on 14 October to make a big difference! Take part in **The Great Cable Challenge** and bag up your cables for recycling. You could help save hundreds of kilos of copper from going to waste.

Please use the recycling box in the porch to collect your cables throughout October. Find out more: https://recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/campaign/international-e-waste-day-the-great-cable-challenge/

Or talk to James if you have any questions.



Looking Ahead to Christmas

As we approach Christmas, look out for the Christmas card notice board again during Advent. This is an opportunity to send a card to the whole congregation while avoiding the need to give out individual cards, saving paper and resources in the process.

If you usually buy charity Christmas cards, please do continue to support the charities financially.

We'll also be hosting our annual **book swap on Sunday 15th November**. Please bring books in good condition and swap them for something new — for yourself or as a Christmas present for someone else!

Elizabeth has also been putting together gift baskets, which we'll be selling alongside the book swap to raise funds for the church.

And finally…



We grew some fantastic sunflowers in the car park! If you've not seen them yet, do go and have a look. We'll try and harvest the seeds so we can plant some more next year.



Get Involved

As ever, if you have any ideas or feedback for the Eco Group, or you would like to join the group, please do talk to James, Fran, Ian, Marian or Justin. Everyone is welcome!

Conservatoire concerts

We are pleased to say that concerts given by Conservatoire students will continue in this Spring. They offer the chance to hear a wide range of music, from classical to folk and jazz, with free entry. However, donations are welcome to help cover costs of heating 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!

The concerts last between 45 minutes and one hour. They take place twice a month on the second Friday, starting at 13.00 on the last Saturday, starting at 19.30. Students like giving recitals at St.Hilda's, because we have excellent acoustics, a lovely piano and they feel welcomed. The dates for this quarter are;

Friday 9th October, 13.00 - 13.45. Pianist, Ciara Thompson.
Saturday 24th October, 19.30 - 20.30. Performer to be confirmed.
Friday 13th November, 13.00 - 13.45. Performer to be confirmed.
Saturday 28th November, 19.30 - 20.30. Harpist
Friday 11th December, 13.00 - 13.45. performer to be confirmed.

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.

Rambles

The St Hilda's rambler group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month. If you'd like to join one of the walks please contact Julie Batham (details on the back page) for more information.

Youth group: Second Sunday of the month, 5:30-7:30pm

Open to anyone in school years 7-11, we meet monthly for food, creativity, conversation and games. Our dates for this quarter are: 11th October, 8th November and 13th December.

Open Church: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays

Church will be continue to be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays between 9:30 and 5pm.

Worship and Prayer at St Hilda's

Sundays at 10:30am – 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday family service
Tuesdays at 9am – Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry)
Wednesdays at 10:00am – Holy Communion or occasionally Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry).

Breathing Space

On the third Friday of the month at 10am is Breathing Space, a time to practice 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: 16th October, 20th November, 18th December 10am - 10.45am. If you want to know more please speak to Jenni.

January 27 News sheet

If you'd like to have anything included in the next newsletter please email it to Jenni by 20th December.

Paper copies of this bulletin are available in the church. If you would like a printed copy sent to your home, or know someone who would, please let Jenni know.

The financial situation of St Hilda's

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you about our finances. I know some of you pay close attention to our figures at APCM, however some of us don't know as much. The reality is that St Hilda's has been running on a deficit budget for several years now, and become increasing dependent on reserves, which are now declining. Despite cutting costs wherever we can, including not employing a Director of Music, Administrator or Children's worker, we have still been operating on a deficit of around £10,000 a year. We cannot carry on forever this way.

Thank you to all of you who give financially and for your time and skills. I am aware everything is going up in price and many of us continue to give under increasingly stretched budgets. Every donation, however big or small, really helps. Our gifts enable the church's mission and ministry to continue.

If you don't currently contribute to the mission and ministry of St Hilda's financially and/or and regularly would like to please speak to our treasurer Simone Abbott, who will also give you a Gift Aid form if you are eligible. Gift Aid really helps make donations go further and regular giving helps us budget and plan.

Most importantly, can I ask us all to pray about the church's finances. God know our needs, hear our prayers, and is our constant companion through these challenges.

Thank you, Rev'd Jenni Crewes.

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		07946 147 703 https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding

Safeguarding information

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

For weekly notices see our weekly pewsheet on Sundays. You can also download it at www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Hilda-Warley-Woods

Inclusive Church

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