St Hilda's Warley Woods

Sunday 15th November 2026

Remembering St Hilda



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

Today we are marking our Patronal festival and celebrating the life of St Hilda.

Opening Hymn: The church's one foundation

Number 585 in Common Praise

Collect

O God of peace,
by whose grace the abbess Hilda was endowed
with gifts of justice, prudence, and strength
to rule as a wise mother over the nuns and monks of her household:
Raise up these gifts in us, that we, following her example and prayers, may build up one another in love to the benefit of your church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; **16** for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever.

Gradual Hymn: The kingdom of God is justice and joy

Number 591 in Common Praise

Gospel Reading: Matthew 19:23-end

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, it will be
hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.
24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the
eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the
kingdom of God.’ **25** When the disciples heard this, they were
greatly astounded and said, ‘Then who can be saved?’ **26** But
Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible,
but for God all things are possible.’

27 Then Peter said in reply, ‘Look, we have left everything and
followed you. What then will we have?’ **28** Jesus said to them,
‘Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of
Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have
followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the
twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has left houses
or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or
fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and
will inherit eternal life. **30** But many who are first will be last,
and the last will be first.

Offertory Hymn: Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light…

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone
Christ, be our light…

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today

Bernadette Farrell

Communion hymn: Let love be real

Number 375 in Common Praise

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.

Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go:
as God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness,
give me your love in spite of all you know:
as God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control;
let us accept each other's incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments,
give me your trust when all my failings show:
as God loves us, so let us love each other,
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Michael Forster ©Kevin Mayhew Ltd., (Publishers) Buxhall, Stowmarket

Final hymn: Let us build a house

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

By Marty Haughen

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 18th November 10am:	Holy Communion
Friday 20th November 10am:	Breathing Space
Sunday 22nd November 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th November 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th November 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th November 6:30pm:	Advent Carol Service

Book Swap - after the service on 15 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 sets, which will be available in return for a donation for the church.

THE PRACTICE OF SILENT PRAYER

Silent prayer is one way we can practise prayer and being still in the presence of the God of love. If you are interested in trying it, along with others, then why not come to Breathing Space. We meet in the choir vestry, entering via the back door of the church. There is a short reading followed by 20mins silent prayer. The next dates are Friday 20th Nov & Friday 18th Dec 10am - 10.45am. All are welcome.

Tidying the garden at the front of the church

Thank you to everyone who has helped so willingly to tidy the garden at the front of the church on the first Saturdays of the months between April and October 2026. These sessions will cease during the winter months and weather permitting, will resume on Saturday 3rd April 2027 between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. Further 2027 dates will be: 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September and 2nd October. If you are free for any of those dates, your help would be much appreciated at any time between 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. Experienced and inexperienced gardeners are all welcome. If you have any queries, please speak to Rob Eaton or Anne Harris.

SAFEGUARDING SURVEY

Bishop Michael is encouraging us all to take part in a survey to help the national church continue to make progress in Safeaguarding. You can complete it here;
https://www.cognitoforms.com/Cofebirmingham/ParishSafeguardingSurvey2026

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 next ones are:
Friday 13th November - French horn: Jennifer Robson and piano: Isaac Butler
Saturday 28th November - Harp ensemble: Veronika Lemishenko, Jiatong Chen, Molly Hartley
Friday 11th December - Piano: Galina Umanskaia
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.

FAIRTRADE ITEMS FOR SALE

You are all very welcome to pop in on a Fairtrade Open Day at 45 Milcote Road, Bearwood, B67 5BJ, on Saturday November 14th any time between 10am and 8pm. I will be selling Fairtrade crafts, gifts, foods and Christmas cards. Coffee and tea on the go all day!
Pam Thompson.
Pam's stall will also be available after the service on Sunday 6th December.

Greening your home this Autumn

Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bills by finding and reducing the draughts in your home. Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (keyholes, letterboxes and gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards for example). Do what you can to fix these gaps - there are lots of tutorials on how to do this online. It's also a good time to prepare for winter by putting radiator reflector

foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room.

November Eco Tips

As winter creeps in, homes are really important. God calls us to give nature a home, too. Does your garden have a bird feeder? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? If you don't own the house you could make a case to the homeowner for a bird box, hedgehog highway or whatever. (For a hedgehog highway do make sure the neighbours are OK with you making a small hole in a shared fence). Why not gather your family, housemates and friends to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all - you'll go further together!

The Great Cable Challenge

Please keep your unused cables coming! We've collected around 120 metres (nearly 400ft) of cables so far.
Electrical waste is the world's fastest-growing waste stream. UK households are holding onto or throwing away 627 million unused cables – enough to reach the moon and back! Recycling cables saves valuable copper and other materials, which can be reused in new products like phones, laptops and medical equipment. Please use the recycling box in the porch.

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 its 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 – 19th and 20th November and 3rd and 4th December.

JENNI AT SYNOD

Please note our vicar Jenni will attending General Synod this week from Monday-Wednesday and have limited access to her phone and emails. Please do pray for her in this new responsibility.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Do you understand 'safeguarding' to mean 'safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm and abuse by a person or persons who have positions of power over them'?
Do you see 'power' as coming from various sources, including people's roles, personalities, money, possessions, education, race, gender and many other factors?
Do you believe that perfect power rests with God and power can be used for the benefit of individuals and the common good but it can also be misused to exploit people?
How do you feel about inequalities, injustice and exclusion in the power and opportunities which people have in their lives?
Do you believe that God loves each person as a special, unique individual?
Do you believe that we should reflect this in the way we respect each person's individuality, dignity, integrity and their rights to be listened to, to make choices and decisions, to promote their best interests and wellbeing, to avoid harm and to be offered protection when it is needed?
Do you believe in the Christian values of hope, healing and wholeness?
Do you like to work in ways which further good teamwork and communication?
Do you feel able to volunteer a few hours of your time each month to

work as a member of St Hilda's safeguarding team, helping to create and maintain a safe environment for everyone who is part of St Hilda's community and activities, being watchful, responding to any safeguarding concerns and ensuring the right action is taken?
Would you be happy to be supported by and accountable to the Incumbent, the PCC and the Birmingham Diocese safeguarding team?
Would you enjoy working with a user-friendly national Church of England parish safeguarding dashboard which is a data base to monitor and record safeguarding compliance, including progress with volunteers' role descriptions, safeguarding training and 'safer recruitment'?
Would you be willing to complete the (mostly online) safeguarding training required of a Parish Safeguarding Officer and apply for an enhanced DBS certificate for the children's and adults' workforces?
If you feel that your answers to these questions are 'yes' and you would like to learn more about the role of a Parish Safeguarding Officer at St Hilda's, please speak to Revd. Jenni Crewes, Vicar or Anne Harris, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator and we can help you to consider this further.

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Help is required to arrange our beautiful flowers in church, which usually takes place on a Friday or Saturday morning. A role description and full training will be given. As with all church roles Basic Awareness Safeguarding training will be need to be completed before starting. Please see Liz Farrier for more information.

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.

YOUTH GROUP HELPER

Our youth group for secondary aged young people meets on the second Sunday of the month from 5:30-7:30pm in the church hall. We are looking for someone to join the team. This role will require a DBS check, basic and foundation levels of Safeguarding training, Raising awareness of domestic abuse training and two references. For more information and a full role description please see Jenni Crewes or Marian Hills.

MUSICIANS

Are you able to play a musical instrument? We rely on three excellent volunteers to play the piano and organ to accompany our singing at services. We really need some more people to help with accompanying. If you can play an instrument that can accompany singing (piano, guitar, organ etc) would you be willing to play occasionally on a Sunday morning? As with all church roles Basic Awareness Safeguarding training will need to be completed before starting. Please speak to Jenni if the answer is yes!

This week please pray for;

- Jenni, and the General Synod representatives as they meet in London this week.
- Our volunteer vacancies.
- Our church finances.


St Hilda's
Warley Woods
THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS
Sunday 29 November
6:30pm
Advent Carol Service
Saturday 12 December
3:30pm
Nativity Trail
Sunday 13 December
10:30am
Christingle Service
Sunday 20 December
6:30pm
Blue Christmas
Christmas Eve
10:30am
Holy Communion & Crib Service
6:30pm
Carol Service
8:00pm
Said Communion
Christmas Day
10am
Holy Communion
Sunday 3 January
10:30am
Epiphany Holy Communion
For more details, please visit:
www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk
St Hilda's Church, Abbey Road, Smethwick, B67 5NQ
Inclusive Church
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM


THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS
St Hilda's
Warley Woods
Advent Carol Service
Sunday 29 November
6:30pm
For more details, please visit:
www.sainthildawarleywoods.org.uk
St Hilda's Church, Abbey Road, Smethwick, B67 5NQ
Inclusive Church
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM

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

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

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

Copyright material is included from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for The Church of England and New Patterns for Worship. The Archbishops' Council 2000 CCL License No. 134913. St Hilda's is a registered Charity, number 1181258