

St Hilda's Church Warley Woods



A Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration

**October 27th 2019
6.30pm**

Information for visitors

- * If you need any help or information, please ask the people on duty in the porch.
- * Complimentary copies of the Parish Magazine are available in the porch.
- * Please ensure all mobile phones are turned onto silent or switched off
- * Please note that fire exits are at the entrance of the church where you came in and also down the stairs to the right of the altar.
- * The **Book of Remembrance** is on display at the back of the Church. If you would like to see the name of your loved one, please ask one of the stewards to turn to the date. If you would like the name of your loved one included in the Book of Remembrance please complete a form, which can be found on the table in the porch
- * Please remain seated if you prefer to even if everyone else stands. And may you know God's deep peace *tonight*.

Welcome

We invite you, during the service, to **light a candle** in memory of a loved one and place it on a stand to demonstrate your faith that all who trust in the risen Christ are in God's safe keeping.

May the lighting of a candle be a sign of the light and love of God.

Hymns are from the blue covered hymnbook **Common Praise (CP)**. Words in **bold type** and *italics* are for all to say or sing.

Light Shining Out Of Darkness

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sov'reign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.



*His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.*

William Cowper

Please stand as the Choir process in to church

Introit: Be still and know
(unknown arr. Nigel Swinford)

Be still and know that I am God.

THE WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Revd Barbara Fletcher greets us:

We meet in the name of Christ,
who died and was raised by the glory of God.
Grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

And also with you

Lay Reader Richard Haynes introduces the service:

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen.
For the things that are seen are transient
but the things that are unseen are eternal.
Tonight we come together
to remember before God our loved ones,
to give thanks for their lives
and to comfort one another in our grief.

As a father is tender towards his children:
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.

For he remembers that we are but dust.

Our days are like the grass:
we flourish like a flower of the field.

***When the wind goes over it, it is gone:
and its place will know it no more***

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures
for ever and ever toward those that fear him:

and his righteousness upon their children's children.

Hymn: Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise CP 474

PRAYER

Father in heaven,
we thank you because you made us in your image
and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.

We thank you for our loved ones
and all that they meant to each one of us.

As we honour their memory, make us more aware that you are the one
from whom all good things come, including the gift of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen**

Please sit

READINGS FROM THE BIBLE

First Reading: I Corinthians I 20-31

St Paul tells how God calls those who the “world” considers unlikely to become Christ’s followers.

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

This is the word of the Lord: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn: The Lord’s My Shepherd CP594

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The second reading describes how those who died for their faith will have their hopes realised.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.^[a]

³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord: ***Thanks be to God.***

The Address:

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:
**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we receive
and this we believe.
Amen**

Please kneel or sit

THE PRAYERS

The response to: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER
AND LET OUR CRY COME UNTO YOU

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour Christ taught us:

***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.
And 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.***

Hymn: Lord Of All Hopefulness CP 507

We remain standing

THE COMMEMORATION

All our laughter, all our sadness:

Safe now in God's hands.

All our anger, all our gladness:

Safe now in God's hands.

All our stories, all our memories:

Safe now in God's hands.

Those we remember, those we love:

Safe now in God's hands.¹

Please sit

Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love,
those who we have placed into your hands.

¹ All Around Hallowe'en, Ruth Burgess

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE BEING COMMEMORATED ARE READ OUT

*Please stand when the name of your loved one is read out
and sit after this prayer—*

Heavenly Father, into your hands
we give you back our loved ones.

Amen

*After all the names have been read out the minister says -
Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life:
He who believes in me, even though he dies, yet shall he live.
And I will raise him up on the last day'.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*We invite you to light candles in memory of those on your hearts today.
The Stewards will advise when to go forward after the Choir who will sing:*

Remember, loving Father (The Ven Ian Jagger)

tune: Ewing

*Remember, loving Father,
the dying of your Son,
and look with rich compassion
on those whose race is run;
on those we hold before you
with thankfulness and love,
who, passed from earthly comfort,
now see your face above.
This borderland of heaven,
this painful gate of death,
where Jesus also yielded
his last forgiving breath,
now stirs with expectation,
now rings with cries of joy;
for he who died is risen,
whom death could not destroy.*

*We light a tender candle,
as fragile as a friend,
a flame against the darkness,
a love without an end;
and pray his resurrection
unquenchable will blaze,
sustaining human frailty
in Love's eternal gaze.*

*When all candles are lit, the minister says:
The eternal God is your dwelling place
and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

*We all say: **Blessed is the Lord,
our strength and our salvation.***

*The lights will be dimmed and in the quietness we sit and remember God's
promise to hold our loved ones in the everlasting arms of love.*

After some time of quiet, the choir will sing::

Be not afraid *Bob Dufford*

*You shall cross the barren desert
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.
Be not afraid, I go before you always.
Come follow me and I will give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters
in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.
*Be not afraid, I go before you always.
Come follow me and I will give you rest.*

Blessed are the poor,
for the Kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you
all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you!
*Be not afraid, I go before you always.
Come follow me and I will give you rest.*

Hymn: For All The Saints Who From Their Labours Rest CP 232

Please stand

THE PEACE

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you.

Now unto him who is able to keep us from falling,
and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory
with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour,
be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. **Amen**

THE BLESSING

Barbara pronounces the blessing

God the Father,
bring us to the place,
which your Son has prepared
for all who love him. **Amen**

God the Son,
give us the will to live for you
each day of our lives. **Amen**

God the Holy Spirit,
give us the assurance
that our home is in heaven
with those whom we have loved
but see no longer. **Amen**

The blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and those you have loved this night
and for ever more. **Amen**

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THERE WILL BE A RETIRING COLLECTION

*If you wish to give money towards the work of St Hilda's
then please leave your contribution
on the plates by the door as you leave.*

* * * * *

*We are grateful to the late Brenda Davis for a donation towards the flowers
that are on display in church for this service.*



**SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS
AT ST HILDA'S CHURCH**

SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 10.30am
Remembrance Sunday Parade Service

SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER 10.30am
Holy Communion service celebrating the life of St Hilda
Rt. Revd. David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, will be preaching

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 6.30pm
Advent Carol Service by candlelight

Friday 6th DECEMBER 1pm
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Concert

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER 10.30am
Family & Parade Service

SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER 6pm
Enchant Choir Christmas Concert

THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER 6PM-10PM
Bearwood Guitar School Concert

CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib Service for all ages 3.00pm
Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm
(Be sure to come in good time to get a seat)
Quiet Holy Communion Service 8.15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Communion 10.30am

SUNDAY SERVICES

You are welcome at any of our church services. We are a church community of ordinary people of all ages who suffer the same losses and share the same joys as all people. There are services every Sunday at 10.30am and 6.30pm. And the church is open for prayer and visitors on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am-4pm through the winter.

For more information, see our website at:

www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk

CCL :Licence No 134913