

St Hilda's Church Warley Woods



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

By Aert de Gelder c1710

Sunday February 4th 2018

A service of Holy Communion

and an unfolding of the story of Prayer Ministry at St Hilda's

Holding hope in our hands: life-giving prayer

Patient, persistent and expectant prayer is the heartbeat of our church community. Our building is open for private prayer all day on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Patient longing prayers are uttered every morning of the week here. And the practice of patiently standing with others in prayer, bearing and sharing the longings and pain, sorrow and joy of one another, has long shaped our life together on Sundays.

Today, as we gather, we will hear more about this ministry of prayer from those who have been drawn by Jesus to enter into this way of serving us. We will learn together more about this ministry from those who offer it. And it may be that this simple sharing will help de-mystify some preconceptions you might have.

Look at the picture on the front page for a moment. What do you see?

This is Simeon, holding the 40-day-old Jesus in his arms... you could say he is holding Hope in his hands. 'It is enough,' he seems to be saying. 'It is enough. I have held the Saviour of the World in my hands.' This painting, by the 18th Century Dutch artist Aert de Gelder captures something of the nature of prayer marked by the hope which Jesus inspires in us. On February 2nd, we marked 40 days since Christmas Day (can you believe it!). Under the Law of Moses, forty days after a birth, a mother would come to the Temple to give thanks for the safe birth of her child to seek purification before taking up her public position in society again. This ritual was part of the rhythm and life of Judaism. It is what Mary and Joseph did on this day.

Much joy and thanksgiving surround the safe arrival of any baby. But in the case of Jesus, a deeper and more profound joy and thanksgiving is remembered by Luke's account which we hear today. For there, lurking in the shadows of the temple pillars, were Simeon and Anna. This is the story of the longings and hopes of two holy people who had the gift of prayerful waiting and the eyes to see what God was doing with a very small child. They had waited a long time. And now they had seen.

Simeon's song, also known as the Nunc Dimittis (which translated from the Latin means: 'Now you dismiss'), is one of the jewels of our worship. It speaks of Jesus as the light of the world who has come to lighten the nations. Anna then joins in blessing Jesus, her blessing is the fruit of many years waiting, praying and fasting. The other reading we have today is from the Old Testament prophet, Malachi. It gives us a change of pace, from patient waiting to 'the Lord suddenly coming' to his Temple. Patient waiting can change into sudden action. Prayer always opens the door to God's grace as we all journey towards wholeness. May you today find rest in the arms of God, who is our Hope in all things.

Paul

Welcome

All the responses shown in bold are to be said by everyone

The Gathering

Call to Worship

Led by a young person

With the pressing crowds, searching for healing and hope,

We wish to see Jesus.

With the pushed out and cast aside, with the lonely lost, stripped of pride,

We wish to see Jesus.

With those who seek mystery and meaning, wisdom and grace,

We wish to see Jesus.

Hymn: Common Praise 516 - Love Divine, all loves excelling

Fran welcomes us and introduces the first hymn

The Greeting

Paul introduces the service and greets the people

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

We come before God just as we are.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Confession Together

Sit or kneel as we come before God in confession

As we sit or kneel, we prepare to come together, into God's presence, conscious of our brokenness and frailty.

We come to receive forgiveness because of God's promises which are true.

We come again and again throughout our lives, seeking grace, that our lives may be more graceful.

We come so we can draw close to God as God draws close to us.

And so, we say together:

**We bring to you, Lord Jesus,
our burdens and our joys.**

**We offer you the sadness and the joy
we have experienced this week.**

**We bring to you our fears and hopes,
for ourselves and for others.**

**Forgive our brokenness and frailty,
our thoughtlessness and negligence,
and those times we know we might have behaved better.**

**Have mercy upon us, as we turn from our sins,
and turn towards your promise of new life.**

Paul then leads the priestly prayer of absolution:

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,

and cleanse us from all our sins

that we may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria

Please stand: The choir lead and we echo the words in bold print:

Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Father.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Father.**

To God be glory for ever.

To God be glory for ever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Son of the Father.**

To God be glory for ever.

To God be glory for ever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Spirit.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
Glory to the Spirit.**

To God be glory for ever.

To God be glory for ever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

The Collect

A special prayer that 'collects up' our heart's cry for today.

Fran introduces it by saying the words: Let us pray

Almighty and ever living God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:

grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit.

A Reading from Malachi 3:1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

Two short stories about Prayer Ministry: *How we got involved*

Hymn: Purify my heart, let it be as gold

Stand.

**Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold, pure gold.**

***Refiner's fire,
My heart's one desire is to be... holy;
Set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be... holy;
Set apart for You, my Master, Ready to do Your will.***

**Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within.**

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Today's Gospel reading describes the infant Christ's presentation in the Temple, which we celebrate in the Christian calendar today. Remain standing. When the Gospel is announced, the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. **Alleluia.**

Colossians 3.15

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A Conversational Sermon about Prayer Ministry

Some members of the Prayer Ministry team share their insights from Scripture, Experience and Study



The Creed

Stand.

Let us affirm our faith in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Prayers of Intercession

Members of the Prayer Ministry Team lead us in prayer

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Sit or kneel. At the end of each prayer the response is:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

At the end of all the prayers the response is:

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Stand. The president introduces the peace, saying these words:

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: May this place be one of nurture

Used with kind permission of Ally Barrett, who wrote the hymn specifically for inclusion in a service at which safeguarding officers were to be commissioned. But it is also appropriate as we consider the ministry of prayer offered week by week at St Hilda's. During the singing of this hymn, the collection will be received and the gifts of bread and wine be brought up to the altar.

**May this place be one of nurture
where we all may come to know
how your endless love sustains us
as we live and move and grow.
May we work to build your kingdom
full of truth and light and grace,
living life in all its fullness
held in one divine embrace.**

**From our negligence and failures
you have called us to repent,
drawing energy for action
from the voices of lament.
As the secret hurts long hidden
may at last be brought to light,
may the truth unlock the freedom
that is every person's right.**

**For you hold the broken hearted
till they learn to live again,
and your justice stands like mountains,
while your mercy falls like rain
when the smallest child is valued,
and the strong empower the weak,
when each human life is hallowed
and the unheard voices speak:**

**So with humble thanks we praise you
and we lift to you in prayer
all the people you are calling
to this ministry of care.
Give us wisdom, grace and courage,
holding fast to all that's good,
seeing Christ in one another
we will love and serve our Lord.**

Preparation of the Table

Everyone joins in saying the words of the offertory proclamation

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Remain standing.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord
God of heaven and earth adored.
God for ever, ceasing never,
Holy, holy Lord. (x2)**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St Hilda and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sit or kneel

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray in our own mother tongue

**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.**

Breaking of the bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in the one bread.**

All join in singing

Jesus, Lamb of God

Betty Pulkingham

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us your peace,
give us your peace.
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us your peace.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Receiving Holy Communion or a Blessing



At St Hilda's, we welcome all to come up to share in communion. You will be guided by the stewards when to come up. Here you may hold out your hands to receive bread and wine if you are a follower of Jesus Christ and are committed to his way of life. It may be that you are not yet baptised or confirmed – which are the outward signs of a serious profession of faith. In which case please just keep your hands by your sides and receive a blessing from the Priest. If you want to find out more about taking steps to follow Jesus, be baptised or have confirmed the faith that is in you; then speak Paul after the service.

If you wish to receive non-alcoholic wine or gluten-free wafers, then please indicate to the priest and assistants at the altar.

Prayer Ministry during Communion

At St Hilda's, we offer prayers with and for people who have come to church burdened for themselves or others for whom they care. Wise and kind prayer ministers, authorised by the vicar and supported by the congregation, offer to stand and pray in the St Katherine's Chapel, to the left-hand side. If, after you have received communion or a blessing at the altar, would like to receive such prayer, then you are most welcome. You don't have to say anything, or you may ask for prayer for something very specific. In pairs, the prayer ministers will stand with you and pray. You might like to hold a 'holding cross' as you receive prayer.



A Prayer of Peace - for you to say as you wait for all

Circle me O God; Keep hope within, Despair without.

Circle me O God; Keep peace within, Keep turmoil out.

Circle me O God; Keep calm within, Keep storms without.

Circle me O God; Keep strength within, Keep weakness out.

Song during Holy Communion: Simeon's Song

By Tommy Walker

The day has come, my eyes have seen
your salvation laid before me
which you've prepared, for all to see
your light, your glory here to set us free.
Just like you promised,
just like the prophets said,
the hope of the world is here.

CHORUS: Jesus, Jesus,
the wait is done,
our King has come to us.
Jesus, Jesus,
we can now give our praise to him
the promised One has come
has come.

As we behold this One foretold
we see the face of God before us.
Let us wait no more to bow and to adore
our Lord, our God, our King forevermore.
Just like God promised,
just like the prophets said
the hope of the world is here.

CHORUS:

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
the promised One is here
our Saviour has now come
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
the promised One is here
our Saviour has now come

CHORUS:

Further hymn at the end of communion: CP5 I 9
Make me a channel of your peace

Prayer after Communion

A special prayer is said by Fran:

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ when he comes
to bring us eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

After which all join in:

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

News and notices

Hymn: Christ be our Light

By Bernadette Farrell

Stand to sing.

**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 peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

***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! Shine in our hearts...

**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! Shine in our hearts...

**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...

The Dismissal

Paul says these words of blessing

Christ whose glory fills the skies.
Fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path
Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.
Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Fran sends us out!
We have come to Christ, the light of the world.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Please stay after the service has ended. Refreshments
are served in the foyer at the back of church.*

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Traidcraft goods are available in the outer porch.

NEWS AND NOTICES

The Sanctuary flowers are the gift from Mrs Connie Jinks.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon	10.45 am	CAMEO – Own Music
Wed	9.30 am	Mother & Toddler Group (Church Hall)
	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Thurs	2.00 pm	St Hilda's Baby Group (Church Hall)
Sat	10.30 am	Table Tennis Club (Church Hall)
	7.00 pm	Alaskan Evening (Church Hall)

Services for next Sunday on 11th February 2018

10.30 am Family & Parade Service
6.30 pm Holy Communion

PEW SHEET NOTICES

Can I please have any pew sheet notices for Sunday 25 February no later than
Sunday 18th February. Thank you, Freddie

PLAINSONG DEMYSTIFIED

In conjunction with Birmingham and Worcestershire Organists' association, an evening of guided discovery into Plainsong is being led by Rosemary Field, deputy director of RSCM (Royal School of Church Music). The event will end with a short act of worship looking towards Lent and Holy Week. Monday 12th February 2018 7.00pm-9.00pm in church, cost £5 including refreshments. Admission at the door. David Ellis

POSTAGE STAMPS

I would like to thank all those of you who saved your used stamps for me over the Christmas period! The response was excellent. If you've still got some, please let me have them, either directly or by leaving them in the cardboard tray on the window sill adjacent to the war memorial in the inner porch. Also, please continue to save them throughout the year if you can and let me have them when you have an envelope full! The need for the RSPB to save the albatross never ceases!! Derek Latham

MAGAZINE 2018

I have updated the list from which the Church Magazines are distributed and hope I have not missed anyone. If this should be the case please let me know so that I may arrange to rectify the error.

The Magazine subscriptions are due for the year 2018 from 1st January 2018 and I am pleased to advise that the cost will be unchanged at 50p a copy or £5.50 for the year if paid on or before 31.03.2018

My thanks once again to all the collectors for their continued help in collecting the subscriptions and in distributing the magazines throughout the year. I look forward to your continued support, Alan Gibbens.

FOODBANK

Thanks to everyone who supports the Smethwick Foodbank through your generous gifts of food and toiletries. The total weight of donations at St Hilda's for the 2 weeks of 9th - 23rd January was 132 kg, and this is very much appreciated. Currently, the Foodbank particularly needs more **tins of meat, fish, and rice pudding, cartons of long life fruit juice, toilet rolls, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel and shampoo.** Thank you for your help.

SOCIABLE SOCIAL EVENING

The next Sociable Social Evening will be on Shrove Tuesday, 13th February at 7.00 p.m., so a chance to have a good meal before Lent starts! The venue will be the first of our new locations and it's 'The Britannia Brew Pub' in Blackheath. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT THE WETHERSPOONS 'BRITANNIA' BY SAINSBURY'S!!** So if you are coming, please don't turn up at the wrong location! The pub has recently been taken over by the Pig Iron Brewery and is situated half way up the long hill between Blackheath town centre and St. Giles' church, on the left hand side if you are coming from Blackheath town centre. The car park is at the back of the pub, along the drive by the pub wall; be careful that you don't accidentally park in the Tesco car park next door! If you would like to join us for the evening, please sign your name on the list which is on the notice board in the outer porch **NO LATER than Sunday morning, 11th February.** We look forward to seeing you there! Julie, Rose and Derek.

TRAIIDCRAFT

Traidcraft goods have been moved to the outer porch, to reduce the congestion in the inner porch where coffee is served following the morning service. Renata, Anne or me will be available each week to serve you. Wendy

BREAD OF LIFE: OUR THEME IN LENT

On Good Friday, March 30th, in the evening, we will be hosting a very special presentation and act of worship through dance, entitled '**Bread of Life**'. The Springs Dance Company will be performing in St Hilda's. It is a 50 minute interpretation of the invitation of Jesus for us to be transformed by his death and resurrection.

It is our hope that you will come to this and invite friends and family, who might not ordinarily come to church. Dance expresses emotions and feelings and inspires thoughts and ideas which words alone cannot. It will be a moving and climactic conclusion to our preparations for Easter Sunday.

Throughout the Sundays of Lent and the services of Holy Week, the preachers will be reflecting upon the theme 'Bread of Life' and how we prepare to respond to Jesus' outrageous and generous invitation to us to be identified with his death and resurrection life.

The bakers among you are asked to respond to the notice below... would you bake our communion bread for one of the following services?

BREAD FOR COMMUNION DURING LENT

Our first Sunday in Lent is on February 18th. Each Sunday, and in Holy Week, all the way through to Easter Day (on April 1st) we will have freshly made bread for communion. To make this possible, would any of you like to sign up to provide bread? Large bread buns rather than a small loaf will be best. To help you judge the size of what you might bake, here are some numbers as a guide. We generally have about 60-70 communicants on a normal Sunday morning; around 15 communicants on a Sunday evening and between 10-25 on the Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week. We expect between 50 to 70 on Maundy Thursday and up to 140 on Easter Sunday.

DATE & TIME	
10.30am February 18th:	1st of Lent
10.30am February 25th:	2nd of Lent
10.30am March 4th:	3rd of Lent
6.30pm March 11th:	Mothering Sunday
12.15pm March 18th:	Passion Sunday
10.30am March 25th:	Palm Sunday
7.30pm March 26th:	Monday of Holy Week
7.30pm March 27th:	Tuesday of Holy Week
7.30pm March 28th:	Wednesday of Holy Week
7.30pm March 29th:	Maundy Thursday
10.30am April 1st:	Easter Sunday

Please put your name down on the sheet in the porch, thank you Paul.

PRAYING TOGETHER

There will be no meeting of 'praying together' during February. The next meeting will be on Monday evening 19th March at 7.00 - 8.00 pm in the Choir Vestry, and you are very welcome to come and join us then. Our prayers will include praise, thanksgiving, and intercession for people, communities and nations. *Wendy Dyke, Carol Hadlington, Carole Southall, Fran Ellis, Anne Harris*

ANNUAL PAROCIAL CHURCH MEETING 2018

This year's APCM will take place in church after the morning service on Sunday, 29th April. This may seem a long time away but we hope you will be able to attend and so this notice is merely to let you know the date so that you can put it on your calendar. Further details about the meeting will be issued nearer to the time. Derek Latham, PCC Secretary.

Please leave a space next to the porch entrance free at all times for those who have mobility challenges. In addition, a space is now available to the side of the Vicarage garage so as to prevent older members having to walk up from the car park. By request of the PCC.

Next week's readings:

First Reading: 2 Kings 2.1-12

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

¹⁰ He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4.3-6

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9.2-9

The Transfiguration

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

St Hilda's Calendar for 2018

February	Sunday 4th	Messy Meet Up – 3.00 pm (Church Hall)
	Saturday 10th	Alaskan Evening - 7.00 pm (Church Hall)
	Wednesday 14th	Ash Wednesday - 7.30 pm (Church)
	Saturday 17h	Parish Ramble - 12.30 pm

QUIET TIME BEFORE THE SERVICE

Please respect people that want or are having quiet time before the service as you do not know what their week has been like.

Please do not ask people questions about work for the church before the service as this is their time not yours.

Please do not put people off from coming to church on Sunday if they are not allowed any time to pray, reflect or have peace.

There is always time over a coffee at the end!

Useful contacts:

Rev. Paul Hinton	Vicar	0121 429 1384
Mrs Sue Round	Churchwarden	0121 572 9752
Mr Gerald Poole	Churchwarden	0121 429 9225
Mrs Mandy Saunders	Children and Families Missioner for St Hilda's (Tues/Wed/Thur 9am - 5pm)	07519 163974 mrej81@tiscali.co.uk
Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
Mrs Rose Akeroyd	Reader	0121 422 2786
Mr Richard Haynes	Reader	07972 530161
Mrs Freddie Brogan	Parish Administrator (Mon & Thur 9am - 1pm)	07582 957364 administrator@sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk

PLEASE TAKE BOOKLET AWAY WITH YOU

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