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## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 35 Sun 15th - Sat 21st November 2020  
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St. John's Church,  
Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP  
[www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk)

### Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):

Click on the Loving, Growing sharing Image  
above from Sunday 10am or on

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808>

### Church Administrator: Nikki Bell

Email [stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com)

Text/Phone 07972 618584

### Vicar: Alan Bradford

Email [abradford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abradford@hotmail.co.uk)

Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599



It was really good to be with over a hundred people on 'Zoom' last Sunday for Remembrance Sunday. It was great to be joined by our friends from local Methodist Churches as well as friends from the Legion and the Brigades.

For those who haven't got the internet, **you can now join us for our worship services directly into Zoom using your telephone.** If you are already attending, please ring someone you know

about this so that they can be included.

Here are the instructions:

- Dial 020 3481 5237 or 020 3051 2874.
- Enter meeting ID (894 8145 2808) then the # key
- You will be asked to enter your participants' ID. Ignore this, and just press # key
- There is no password. If you are asked for one, then just press the # key.

I have already tried with one person and they got on first time! I explained to them what the hash key (# ) was - the noughts and crosses grid key! It is good for the person to have a go with you if possible. However, if you aren't used to sending out a link yourself, do let me know and we'll arrange to get them on as a practice before Sunday. When on the phone there are clear instructions about how to mute etc.

**Shipwreck Competition!** This is especially for children (of all ages!). The best description of a shipwreck and the amazing survival story y is to be found in the book of Acts chapters 27 and 28. To enter the competition:

- 1) Download the map of the shipwreck journey by [clicking here](#) (pdf) file
  - 2) Get 2/3 sheets of A4 paper and have a few goes at copying the map, and maybe adding one or two of the countries that are around on it. **Put a start on the map where the shipwreck took place!**
  - 3) Take a photo of your final drawn map and email it in, or post it in (addresses above)
  - 4) If you wish, have your entry ready to show us on Zoom this Sunday or the one after.
- Have a go! There are prizes!

It's helpful and affirming to receive feedback and encouragement about 'The Online Link'. I know how much many people are really enjoying reading this publication. A lot of work goes into this each week so please do take a moment to encourage the team in their efforts. **If you have been asked to do a 'My Story', please could you respond, or offer - see helpful hints within the 'Notices' section.** If you don't have a computer please write your story down and send it in - we will ask someone to type it up. Lots of people really enjoy this section.

*Blessings, Alan*

## Prayers

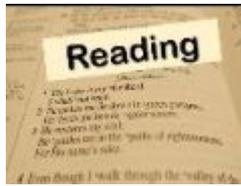
### Those on the frontline

Please pray for all workers on the 'frontline' as we see increasing numbers of those catching the coronavirus and increasing hospital admissions. This week you might also like to pray specifically for **shop keepers and those who work for Transport for London.**

### India

India's parliament has passed a new bill on the Foreign Contribution Regulations Act which makes it extremely difficult for NGOs to operate. The bill also puts all functioning NGOs directly under the government's scrutiny. Many mission organisations and churches in India are registered as NGOs. Ask God to intervene so that this bill cannot be used to close them down.

Pray for the pastors of house churches. Many believers have lost their jobs and have nothing to give to support their church leaders. Pray for the needs of the house churches to be met.



### Acts 27: 9-26

9 Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned them, 10 “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.” 11 But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. 12 Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure,

17 so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

21 After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’

25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”



### Generosity of the earth

#### *Discovering colours of the earth.*

Nature provides us with a colourful world, just now we can see the colours of autumn, oranges, reds, rusts and browns. The earth provided early man with colour. People in Europe, Australia and Indonesia painted images on cave walls of hunters and herders using pigments from blood, sap, berries and dried plants and minerals. Many artists, including Rembrandt and Leonardo da Vinci, would have used minerals from the earth in their paintings. Paints can be made using pigments. I watched a workshop showing how to make your own paint mixing natural pigment with a binder, in this case soya milk was used. The paints can be used like watercolours. Natural pigments are mineral compounds found in the earth, primarily made of iron ore. The iron ore transforms into various shades including brown, orange, red and yellow. Where the earth has been disturbed these pigments may be revealed. Many paints that we use in art today are synthetic and maybe harmful. Look up natural earth paint on the internet for information and child friendly products. Pigments are also available from Cornelissen, online and from the art shop near the British

Museum, worth a visit when possible. You could have a go at making your own. *Christine Rodrigues*

### **Prayers for our world.**

We give thanks to the Lord for the wonder of creation. At this time of year we thank you Lord for the wonderful colours of autumn. For the changing patterns and shapes of the trees. Thank you for the design and patterns of the leaves, the sounds they make when the wind blows through them and the crunch we enjoy hearing under foot. We have especially enjoyed the trees this autumn. They have helped to still our minds and remind us of your presence and that you Lord, are always with us. Guide us, help us to stop and notice the wonder of trees and consider that we all share the same space on earth, dependent on each other and on every other living thing. Amen

There are many people working in many ways to bring awareness to the problems facing the earth. We have people working both locally and nationally, groups such as ARocha and the Eco Action Group organised by the diocese, the local group of Friends of the Earth and also our own Eco Group. We thank you Lord for all their effort, enthusiasm and commitment. May we all work together, everyone of us to bring change in our own lives and live lightly in our world. Help us then to extend and reach out to bring change to the wider community. Help us Lord to consider that how we live can affect others, people in places that we may never see. Help us to find ways to bring change and action through prayer to bring our attention back to living wisely in our world. We ask this in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen. *Christine Rodrigues*

### Praying for the Planet

Sunday November 15th is the new moon, the day we particularly remember our beautiful planet in prayer, meditation, awareness or involvement, with love, hope and gratitude.

The Celtic festival of Samhain was at the beginning of this month. Our ancestors followed these festivals for centuries, harmonising themselves with the seasons and with the agricultural year. This was the quiet time in nature and agriculture when the harvest is finished and all the animals have been brought in. It is the resting time, and it is also the beginning of their year. It is interesting that, like us, their new year starts with the dark and with the hidden preparation for life, not with the outburst in spring. It is also interesting that, for us in England, lockdown is replicating this quiet time.

We can see the changes in the trees with leaves of glorious colour before they drop away as the sap and energy sink to the roots to strengthen them for winter. Walking outside is something we can still do during lockdown. And we can see ourselves in the trees, we can learn how to recognise and manage our own seasons and not expect to be always the same. We can see change that is a normal part of life, when all around are changes that are new and difficult to manage.

For us who care about the planet, we want to do what we can to help and to heal. But the planet offers itself to us, this is not a one sided relationship. Step outside this autumn and let the air, the birds and the trees lift your spirit and find resonance with your soul.

Don't let the autumn blow your mind  
 Into a pile of dying leaves.  
 The trees are only sleeping, storing  
 Strength to fight the winter breeze  
 And spring will bring the living greens  
 To frame the sky that lights your way.  
 We all must live through bitter days  
 And life is stronger than it seems.  
*Jane Upchurch*



### ***St. Laurence Church, Cowley and our journey to Faith***

We were married in St Laurence Church Cowley in 1975 by the Reverend George Gilson. Roger was confirmed the next year.

It was a sad morning service when George announced that as he was 73 he had to retire. He was followed by Norman Chalk and his wife Heidi. In those days it was a very happy church.

Roger was elected to the PCC and then elected Churchwarden.

St Laurence Day was a big celebration. Norman sat in the Lynch Gate as it was the tradition. After Evensong we all went into the Rectory Garden where there was a fine spread of food cooked by Heidi for up to 100 people and Norman arranged games for the children.

After an interregnum Richard Christian joined us. He came from West Wittering. His wife was training to be a vicar. They moved as the Bishop of Chichester was not in favour of women vicars. She was inducted into St Andrew's. After training she was offered a Parish in Stanmore.

Our second interregnum with Roger as Church Warden was quite a long one. Our new vicar arrived. Our sons were growing up and we felt it was time for a change. Our youngest 2 were at St Andrew's school so we settled there.

We knew John Shepherd, Churchwarden at St. John's at the allotment so tried St John's and for a while we alternated and then settled on St John's.

Second and Fourth son moved away. Before the lockdown we used to join Richard and family In Hoddesdon at St Catherine's where Rachel is the vicar and Stewart at St Paul's Chippenham. I get the news bulletin from St Paul's and a piece Simon the vicar wrote was a great help. I keep a copy in my bible. It reads as follows:

Can't find Him?

We can pray and read his Word anywhere.

We can serve and worship God from our desks, tables and our chairs.

We can worship Him always, and everywhere.

He can be found in your laughter and your tears, your joy and your pain.

We don't "need" a building. We ARE church. "Dispersed, Deployed and Doing it" Yes, it will be glorious to stand / sit shoulder to shoulder in worship again. And that time will come! For now, be patient in waiting, alert in seeking; and courageous in your sacrificial and generous living. The Lord be with you. Shalom, Simon. *Roger and Jenny*



Roger and Jenny Dewey.



### Moorcroft

The property known as Moorcroft has a rich and varied history. I mentioned it last week in reference to November 5<sup>th</sup> and the Gunpowder Plot, but I thought our “OnLine Link” readers might like to read about some of Moorcroft’s other residents from the past.

The first record of the house is in 1523, when one of the inhabitants was William Moorcroft a clerk. Then came Drew Saunders a trader in wool, hides and tin. He lived there with his wife Elizabeth and daughter Sara. The family are buried under the nave at St John’s and the brasses from the tomb displayed in church. (Shown below).

After that, comes Robert Catesby (of the gunpowder plot fame) in the 1590’s. He sold it to Father Henry Garnet and it was used as a refuge for catholic priests, for which Father Garnet lost his head!

The Moorcroft story then goes quiet for a few decades but in the St John’s burial register for the period 1652-1686 there is a note written by the Vicar relating to John Walker, a gentleman of Moorcroft who paid for a vault in the churchyard for himself and his family. John Walker had considerable wealth and it was probably him that greatly improved Moorcroft turning it from a farmhouse into the fashionable, elegant Georgian building that we see today. The area in which Moorcroft stands was at that time known as “Little London”.

In 1763 James Stilwell purchased Moorcroft and the house underwent another transformation. Extensions and extra separate buildings were added to make the transition to a private lunatic asylum run by the Stilwell family for several generations. It closed in 1947 and the property was then purchased by Middlesex County Council. Today it’s a school for students with severe learning difficulties.

Moorcroft is one of my favourite buildings in the area, I particularly the little grotto type building near the main entrance. If you are passing pop your head through the gate and take a look. It’s charming and I can only presume that it’s a gatehouse. Maybe one of our readers might know more? *Christine Bartlett.*



John Walker Memorial. (In the Prayer Chapel.)



Drew Saunders Brass



Stilwell Family Tomb.



Moorcroft.



The Hillingdon Foodbank face challenging times due to the coronavirus pandemic. They support the multi national community in Hillingdon of all creeds and aim to make the Christmas holiday more special at the darkest time of the year with the added problems that everyone is now facing.

They also make up 100+ Christmas boxes for people who do not qualify for Foodbank support, but are in need.

To help you understand, for this years Harvest festival 11 schools kindly donated although the foodbank usually experience help from 36+ schools.

The Foodbank is in need of:

**Tinned Products only:** Meat(all types), Fish, Vegetables, Fruit and Puddings.

**Jars:** Jam, Pasta Sauces, Curries and other sauces.

**500g-1kg Bags of:** Granulated Sugar, Pasta, Rice and noodles.

**Packets of:** Potato Mash, Biscuits, Christmas cakes, Sweets, Crisps, Heathy Bars and snacks.

**Bottles/Cartons of:** Long life Milk, Fruit Juice and squash.

**Children's Toys** Pre wrapped with a label stating what age and whether the gift is for a boy or a girl.

You can drop your donations to:

Participating local Supermarkets:

1. Sainsburys York Road Uxbridge UB8 1QW
2. Sainsburys Lombardy Retail Park Coldharbour Lane Hayes. UB3 3EX.
3. Sainsburys Long Dr, South Ruislip, Ruislip HA4 0HQ.
4. Tesco Bulls Bridge Industrial Estate Hayes UB25LN
5. Tesco Extra Glencoe Rd, Hayes UB4 9SQ
6. Waitrose 52 Green Ln, Northwood HA6 2XB

Current Participating Churches with donation boxes.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic only the following are open for donations.

St Martin's Church Eastcote Rd, Ruislip HA4 8DG. Monday to Sunday 09-00 to 16-00 hrs

Or Alternatively

Delivery to Hillingdon Foodbank Warehouse

Foodbank Warehouse Address:

30 Oxford Road

UB9 4DQ.

Thank you from the Hillingdon Foodbank Team.



### **Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to everyone who has once again supported this amazing charity. We have had such a fantastic response. I delivered all the completed boxes last week. In total including online boxes we donated 27 that I am aware of.

There is still time to pack a shoebox as the national collection week has been extended to the 5th December. The last day is 14th December this can be done online by giving a donation of £20 and Samaritans Purse will pack a shoebox for you, just click on this link for more information <https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/> *Nikki Bell*

**NOTICES**

### **Hillingdon Hospital Re-Development.**

Construction should start in July 2022, all being well with completion in 2025.

There is a programme of engagement with stakeholders and the Hospital Trust wants to get as many views as possible to inform the process.

For further information click on the hyperlink [thh-redevelopment@thh.nhs.uk](mailto:thh-redevelopment@thh.nhs.uk) which gives more details to the present position. *Roger Dewey.*

### **The Bible Society**

The Bible Society are collecting used postage stamps to raise funds. Please send stamps to Bible Society, Stamp Appeal, Post Room, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG – thank you!  
*Christine Bartlett*

### **This is Me Project.**

Susan Dalloe, The Borough Curator is currently working on a project called "This is me" its an exhibition that will have a soft launch at Uxbridge Library in January 2021, and then will hopefully tour the Borough of Hillingdon.

To be part of the exhibition all you have to do is take a photo of 5 objects that define you. if you would like more information please email or call Nikki. *Mark and Helen Hamlin.*

### **My Story.**

Although this time during the pandemic is difficult, it does bring us some special opportunities. One opportunity is for you to write your story! We'd love to know something of your story and to present this as an opportunity for others to get to know you better too.

Would you consider writing something that we could share with others via 'The online Link '?

Obviously, you could write a lot, but don't worry, it needn't be long.

The idea is to include how you came to be a part (or associated with) with St. John's Church and to include something about your faith story or your searching story.

Thank you for considering this. There are some hints/tips below that could help:

**Tip 1** Use some questions that could help.

Where were you born, where did you grow up and where did you go to school?

What has been your main means of supporting others or supporting yourself – eg trade, jobs, profession?

Any especially unusual, good, or hard times (this might help others who could relate to this).

How did you come to be associated (or to become a regular worshipper) at St. John's church? – something about your faith/searching journey.

Funny story, embarrassing moment, moment of fame?

**Tip 2** Speak out your story first, maybe to a member of the family, or on the phone or to someone who regularly calls you. (You could let them know what you are doing). This will help give you the energy to write

**Tip 3** Type your story. If you do not have access to a computer Nikki would be happy to interview you over the phone.

If you would like to share your story, please contact Nikki via email or phone.

### **The Children's Society Home Coin Boxes.**

Please hang on to your collecting boxes for the time being. The Children's Society do not want us to be placed at unnecessary risk by handling boxes, counting coins and taking trips to the bank. If you are a box holder, you will be contacted when we are able to collect your box. *Christine Bartlett*

#### **CHEQUES**

Payable to:  
Hillingdon Parochial Church Council  
St. John's Church  
Royal Lane  
Uxbridge  
UB8 3QP

#### **STANDING ORDER**

Set up a Standing Order with your bank or building society using these details:  
Barclays Bank, 142 High St,  
Uxbridge, UB8 1JX  
Sort Code: 208916  
Account No: 20465615

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