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The Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 86 Sun 23rd January - Sat 5th February 2022
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Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):

Click on the church image above to join our
10:30am service on zoom from Sunday
10am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808>

Church Administrator: Nikki Bell

Email stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com
Text/Phone 07972 618584

Vicar: Alan Bradford

Email abradford@hotmail.co.uk
Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599

St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP
www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



As I write this we are only just over two weeks into the new year, and already it has been an

eventful one – especially last week! On Wednesday my sister fell over in her garden and managed to fracture her wrist badly; we drove up to Derbyshire on Thursday so we could attend the funeral of a friend on Friday; and on Friday evening my stepdaughter, who lives in Cornwall, was hit head on by another car – fortunately she had seen it coming and had braked, but her car is a write off. Life is often like that – you never know what is waiting for you around the corner; but one certainty we do have is that God will always be there for us in times of trouble, worry, and stress – we just need to remember that certainty when we are struggling in life. One of my Christmas presents this year from my stepdaughter in Australia was a small box of cards with the words “Share a Prayer” on the front. In the box are beautifully marbled coloured cards with inspirational phrases on the front and scripture readings on the back. The one on the top said “Lift all your worries to God” and on the back of the card it quotes Phillipans 4: 6 – 7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”. What wonderful uplifting words for the start of a year that hasn't quite gone to plan yet!

As I mentioned we attended a funeral last Friday – and it was a day of -4C and freezing fog. The funeral took place in a crematorium which had two chapels. We were in the larger of the two and it was a lovely building, with lots of natural light from the many windows, brick walls and timber in abundance (it was also, thankfully, well heated!), and was set out in the countryside (although our view was limited thanks to the fog). The priest who took the funeral knew Sue, our friend, and spoke of the Sue he knew. He welcomed us with the words from St John's Gospel “In my Father's house there are many rooms” and went on to say he could visualise Sue dusting them all! The reading from St John is one that we have used for many of my family's funerals (and I visualise my grandparents, my parents and my sister enjoying being together in one of those rooms)– and by a curious happenchance Caroline read it to us at our morning services this Sunday. It is a wonderfully comforting thought that there is room for each and every one of us to be with God eventually in “His” house. We don't know what the future has for us here on earth (and after the last two years I suspect no one is brave enough to hazard a guess) but we do know that if we continue as Disciples we will eventually find our eternal peace in God's house – now that is something to look forward to. **Carol Williams**

Loving Father, who loved us so much that you sent your Son to be our Saviour, we thank you for adopting us into your family and for ensuring that there will always be a place for us in your house with many rooms. Help us, as Disciples, to let the world see the wonder of that love. AMEN



Sunday 23rd January
Disciples are Baptised
Romans 6:1-5

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Sunday 30th January

Positive Living

Philippians 4: 4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

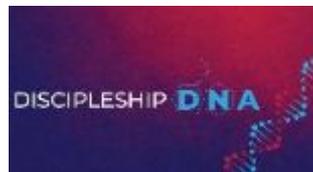
8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.



Important Notice about Sunday 23rd January

As you may be aware on Sunday we have 5 full immersion Baptisms taking place. After further reflection and out of concern for all the candidates we have decided to use the side door for entry/exit for both the 9am and 10:30am services. This is to keep as much heat in the church building as possible. If you are coming to either of the services and might struggle with the side entrance due to the steps a member of the welcoming team will be outside to help you in through the main doors. **Alan**



Sunday Preaching Themes for the Weeks Ahead.

23rd January - Disciples are Baptised

30th January - Positive Living

6th February- Intentional Growth

13th February- Questions to Help One Another

20th February- Discipleship Purpose: Salt and Light



Items from A Rocha UK eNews

A milestone we celebrate at the start of 2022 is the exciting news that all 42 of the Church of England dioceses have now registered for the Eco Diocese scheme. This shows a significant commitment to getting more churches signed up to Eco Church but more importantly, that all dioceses in the Church of England are united in taking collective environmental action. This is also the case for the Church in Wales where all six of its dioceses have already registered for Eco Diocese.

In just 6 years since Eco Church was launched, we have met our ten year goal to reach 10% of

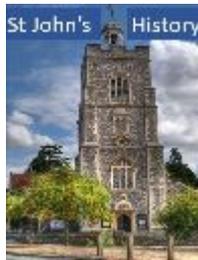
churches across England and Wales. That's over 4,500 churches across England and Wales now part of the Eco Church community, with more than 1,500 awards achieved. We are now looking forward, over the next five years, with a new goal to reach 25% of churches across the UK. This goal is in conjunction with Eco Congregation in Scotland and Northern Ireland, with whom we look forward to closer collaboration, building on the work we have done together in the Climate Sunday campaign.

A future focus within Eco Church is to achieve greater depth of churches engagement with the environment – to see many more churches being awarded and moving up the awards ladder, from Bronze to Silver and Gold.

But we also aim to expand the breadth of participation across new denominations and in parts of the country where a regional presence would enable deeper relationships to be built.

Here are some ideas to make 'enjoying nature' your priority in 2022.

- Take a wildlife quiz. From cool questions on the coldest regions to testing for knowledge on the deep blue sea, learn something new about nature alone or with your family with WWF's selection of fun quizzes [here](#).
 - Bring nature into your home or garden. Planting a herb or flower as a reminder of our responsibility to steward God's earth. As you tend to this plant, prayerfully ask God how you might nurture nature better at home in 2022.
 - Spot winter wildlife. Winter is still a great time to be outdoors and see wildlife. Soak up the seasonal sights on your doorstep or find out what you can see in different parts of the UK [here](#).
 - Walk and Worship. Go for a walk in nature and note all the signs of the season. Use this time to reflect on the changing season and what we can be thankful for.
 - Write about or draw something that inspires you in nature. Try this one as a group activity and share your ideas and reflections.
 - Birdwatch. A great way to begin could be taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch this January (28-30).
 - Visit an outstanding area of beauty in the UK. Many of our Partners in Action offer beautiful surroundings and even retreat days or weekends. Check out The National Trust's website for your nearest escape to nature too.
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- Get to your nearest green space more often. Time spent enjoying God's creation will help set your mind and seek the things that are above. Bring your your sketch or note book, your Bible, or whatever helps you connect with our heavenly Father. Or perhaps God is inviting you to just bring yourself (with some extra layers!) and simply sit.
 - Bring a friend along! Next time you meet up with a friend, why not suggest an extended or brisk wintery walk together (don't forget your reusable coffee cups!)
 - Try out a new delicious meat-free recipe. What we eat impacts the earth's resources. Get creative in the kitchen and sample some tasty Meat Free Monday recipes [here](#).
 - Grow your own. What could you grow inside your home, in the garden or even at church? Who can you bless along the way? Healthy and rewarding, Vishadhi shares her tips on how she started growing her own fruit and vegetables to bless others in urban Southall, London.
 - Plan a Wild Time! Plan something completely wild in nature for later this year. Experience kayaking, wild camping, outdoor yoga, forest school, forest church... Make it your resolution to really enjoy what nature has to offer this year. Break out of your normal routine and join a volunteer work party or take to the water for wild swimming. Whatever you do – do something different and have fun in 2022!
 - Do you have other ideas that would help others to enjoy and connect to God's wonderful creation that you could share? ***Christine Rodrigues***



The next point of interest on our tour is a large black gravestone to mark the burial place of Anne Lukyn which is just in front of the Toddler Corner in the North Aisle. When you consider that this gravestone has been in situ for nearly 400 years with people walking over it, it really is quite amazing that it can still be read.

Anne was the wife of Roger Lukyn from Iselham in Cambridgeshire. When Anne died in 1643, Hillingdon was a hotbed of activity due to the English Civil War (1642-1651) between Parliamentarians ("Roundheads") and Royalists ("Cavaliers"), mainly over the system of government and issues of religious freedom.

Many church buildings were caught up in the fighting during the English civil war as they were one of the few solid built structures in small settlements which of course provided huge military potential. Church towers provided the perfect look out to observe the surrounding area, and also to fire down on enemy positions. Churchyards being surrounded by stone walls were also useful if troops were under attack.

From 1642, Uxbridge was a Parliamentary garrison. Throughout the civil war it would have been a frequent sight to see troops marching to and from Uxbridge past St John's. On August 10th 1642, 30 roundheads entered St John's, destroyed the altar rail, stole a white linen vestment which one of the soldiers wore as they continued their march into Uxbridge! Legend has it that Oliver Cromwell himself spent the night at Cedar House opposite St John's and we do know for certain that his grandson Richard Russell lived there for a time.

In 1645, Uxbridge was chosen to hold peace talks which were held at Place House - part of which survives as The Crown and Treaty Public House. Hillingdon Borough Council have a very interesting section on their website about Uxbridge in the Civil War, do take a look at it if you have a few minutes. **Christine Bartlett**



Anne Lukyn Gravestone.



Pray for Lauren, Katie P, Katie H, Forough and Atosa who will be baptised by full immersion on **Sunday 23rd January.**

Pray for Myles and his family and friends as they prepare for his baptism on **Sunday 30th January.**



Services

Update: *If you are joining us in person we have the following in place to help protect against the spread of Coronavirus:*

- **Lateral Flow Testing:** Please take a lateral flow test before attending our services. This is a precaution to make sure that you are not asymptomatic. If you feel unwell and have any of the coronavirus symptoms please stay at home and request a PCR test.

- **Masks:** You are required to wear a mask inside the church and when singing unless you are exempt. If you are exempt you should have an exemption card and wear this on a lanyard so that others are at ease. Masks are available at the entrance to St John's. However you may wish to use your own mask.

- **Hand sanitiser:** This is available when you enter and at various locations inside St. John's, although you may wish to bring your own.

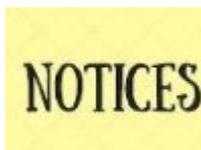
- **Signing in:** Upon entering St John's please see one of the Welcomers who will sign you in.

- **Seating:** Please only sit in the pews that have a red seat cushion and a sign on the end. This is due to keeping a safe distance to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. It also helps when we administer the Holy Communion as the servers can use the pew in between.

- **Coffee and Tea:** Currently we have not reinstated this yet. We continue to monitor and review this and will let you know on the link when we will be able to offer refreshments.

If you have any questions/concerns about any of the above please do contact Alan or myself.

Nikki





Thank you to everyone who helped clean on the 11th and 12th January.



Cedar Tree Update

On the 5th January the tree surgeons arrived to take more of the cedar tree away. We were left with the base as you can see in the photo below.



Before the work started...



Just waiting for the base and roots to be grinded down.

The tree surgeons returned again on 11th January to grind out the base and tree roots. The tree has now completely gone. We did manage to save some bits of the tree Adrian Morris has kindly offered to make something for the church from the cedar wood so although it has sadly gone it will never be forgotten.



I asked the tree surgeons to cut 2 circular sections from the base of the trunk and on Sunday 9th January I took the children out to count the rings to find out how old the tree was. It's very difficult as some of the rings were so close together. Which tells us we must have had bad winter weather conditions during those years as it shows that the tree did not grow very much during this time. The largest count was 196 years! which would date the tree around 1826!

We looked at the cedar tree across the Uxbridge road in Cedar House. It is recorded that Samuel Reynardson who was a botanist lived in Cedar House from 1678 until his death in 1721 and it is assumed that he planted the cedar tree in Cedar House in the time that he resided there. So our

tree may have been planted around the same time or after Samuel Reynardson passed away.

Why not come along and take up the challenge of counting the rings?

The sections of the trunk are outside by the boiler room near the fire exit by the toilet.

Please let me know how many rings you are able to count. **Nikki**



Filming a Hindi Romantic Comedy in St. John's

Tuesday 11th January was a very busy day for St. John's! We had cleaning in the morning, the cedar tree root being ground out, filming in the church and Jazz!

What filming in church? yes you heard right we were contacted by a location production manager to ask if the church could be hired for a few hours to film for a Romantic Comedy- Hindi movie. It was very last minute as the church that they had set up needed to cancel at very short notice. We could not let this opportunity go....

Originally it was requested to just use the outside of the church when the directors arrived they loved the church so much they wanted to film inside. It was very exciting even the Tuesday Jazz group were asked to star in the movie.

A total of 2 hours of filming took place at St John's which provided us with some much needed revenue. Here are just some of the pictures taken on the day. **Nikki**



Some of the film crew, they had lots including hair and make-up.



The Stars of the Movie, including our very own Tuesday Jazz group!



For the latest edition (Jan-Feb 2022) of Hillingdon People magazine please [Click Here](#)



Looking Ahead....

Sunday 23rd - 9am Service, 10:30am Full immersion Baptisms

Monday - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, Private Prayer. 8pm Bellringing Practice.

Tuesday- 9:30am Cleaning, 12noon Jazz, 7:30pm Accordion Band.

Sunday 30th - 9am, 10:30am Baptism of Myles & 12:30 Services.

Monday - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, Private Prayer, 8pm Bellringing Practice.

Tuesday - 9:15am Private Prayer, 12noon Jazz, 7:30pm Accordion Band.

Wednesday - 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon
Words and Music.

Thursday- 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon Jazz.

Friday - 10:30am Let's Go, 12noon Jazz

Saturday - 11am- 4pm Music Tuition

Wednesday - 9:15am Nikki Office.

Thursday - 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon
Jazz.

Friday - 10:30am Let's Go 12noon Jazz.

Saturday - 11am -4pm Music Tuition.

How to join the Sunday service from your landline/mobile (without Internet)

- Dial **020 3481 5237** or **020 3051 2874**.

- Enter meeting ID Code **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.

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:

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Uxbridge, UB8 1JX

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