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## The Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 96 Sun 22nd May- Sat 4th June 2022  
Registered Charity 1128058

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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](mailto:stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com)  
Text/Phone 07972 618584

### **Vicar: Alan Bradford**

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### **St. John's Church,**

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP  
[www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk)



It has been a busy two months since my last blog. We are slowly getting back to most of our pre-

pandemic activities, and with all the summer flowers slowly starting to bloom; some days of sunshine and the promise of being able to enjoy the open air more, the prospects of a good summer are looking promising.

We are just home from church as I write this – where the “tech team” battled problems including recalcitrant cameras, and did a wonderful job – and it is lovely to be back to having Alan able to lead Elevate Church in St Andrew’s Park, and for St John’s to still feel quite full compared with earlier days of our return to the building. Since I last wrote we have experienced the joy and hope of Easter – with the wonderful Easter craft project bringing a lovely splash of colour to the outside of the church. We managed to produce an amazing number of bees, bunnies, flowers and butterflies this year and every single one has now gone to a good home. I have to confess I really enjoyed making some crochet butterflies. As I mentioned in one of my earlier blogs that was one good thing to come out from the pandemic, as it reunited me with my love of crochet!

We managed some more theatre visits over the last two months – taking in *The Life of Pi* (absolutely stunning and brilliant production – we highly recommend it) and *Cinderella* (the week before its closure was announced!), as well as attending a concert, and a couple of trips to the cinema. It was a halcyon day when we went to *The Life of Pi* – the trains worked brilliantly on both our journeys up to London and back. We arrived in plenty of time for the matinee, it was a sunny Spring day and we were able to have a glass of chilled wine sitting outside near to the theatre. Our seats in the stalls were excellent, the performances were brilliant, and our meal afterwards delicious. Add in the fact that we were with two of our really good friends and it was a perfect day all round.

Our most recent outing was to see the Raphael exhibition at the National Gallery – a stunning 92 exhibits! Needless to say our feet were slightly sore after that, but it was worth every twinge of the toes and pain on the balls of our feet to be able to visually feast on the beautiful paintings and drawings. One of the paintings we saw is known as the Alba Madonna and shows Mary, the baby Jesus and the young John the Baptist. The infant John the Baptist is holding out a cross to the baby Jesus and the information provided by the National Gallery states “*Even though it is a symbol of Christ’s future suffering and death, the infant Jesus nevertheless reaches out to grasp it, thereby accepting his fate.*” The painting really made an impression on me, and reminded me of just what Jesus did for us all. I also discovered that the purple anemones which the child John is holding in his arms are a symbol of the Resurrection! Apparently it is to do with the flowers closing at night and then opening in all their splendour in the morning – reminding us of the beauty of Jesus being raised from the dead.

Our next adventure is overseas – as we are off to Cyprus for two weeks in just over a week’s time. We are staying just north of Paphos, so won’t be forced to follow in the footsteps of St. Paul, John Mark and Barnabas who walked along the south coast of the island until they eventually arrived in Paphos – a journey of 90 miles. I am hoping our visit will be much more restful than that faced by Paul and his companions! **Carol Williams**



**Sunday 22nd May**  
**Resurrection People: Restoring Work**  
John 21:1-14

21 Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

**Sunday 29th May**  
**Ascension Sunday**  
**Acts 1: 1-11**

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."



**Theme and readings for the weeks ahead.**

**Resurrection People.**

1st May - Restructuring Imagination - Luke 24:13-35

8th May - Resurrection Bodies - Luke 24:36-49

15th May - Raising Doubts - John 20:19-31

22nd May - Restoring Work - John 21:1-14 (AGM/APCM)

29th May - Ascension Sunday - Acts 1:1-11



### St. John's Services Update

Following the recent Government announcement of relaxation of some of the Covid measures, St. John's PCC reviewed, discussed and decided:

**Front Doors-** We are now using the main front doors as the weather is getting better.

**Face Masks** - This is now a personal choice. For those that wish to wear your mask you may prefer to sit at the back in the last rows, to help you feel more comfortable around those singing without a mask. However, you are equally free to sit anywhere you would like.

We will still have face masks available for those that wish to take them. We ask that you continue to be mindful to others.

**Space** - After a review on Wednesday 6th April We are trialling different ways for Holy Communion so that we can make full use of the church pews.

**Zoom-** Will continue.

**Testing prior to attending church-** Not now needed however if you feel unwell then please stay home, you may wish to test if you have any of the coronavirus symptoms and connect via zoom.

**Refreshments** - This is now up and running. For this to continue we really need more people to sign up for volunteering please see Nikki or Alan if you can help in anyway.



Friends of the Earth are having another Restart Party- This is a free event for repairing any electrical items that you may have around the house that are not working as efficiently or have completely stopped working. The event is on Saturday 2nd July in Ruislip Manor Library- Linden Avenue HA4 8TW from 11am - 2pm. There is no need to book at this time. If you are interested, just bring along any slow or broken electronic devices and the experts will try and help you to fix them.

### Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle, Rot

The 6 R's

1. **Refuse** Say no to single use bags, packaging, cup's etc
2. **Reduce** the amount you consume: fashion, gas, electricity, food.
3. **Reuse** don't buy new items straight away think about how you can upcycle something you already have.
4. **Repair** electrical items that are no longer working and repair clothing.
5. **Recycle** use recycling banks or charity shops to donate unwanted items or the Hillingdon Council Recycling services.
6. **Rot** Compost, compost, compost!



Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be taking place at 10:30am on **22nd May 2022**. At this meeting we will be electing 2 Churchwarden's, 3 representatives to the Deanery Synod and 12 members for the PCC. If you are interested in

standing please speak to Alan or Nikki. Application forms are available at the back of Church. This is also an opportunity to reflect on last years mission and ministry and all that was achieved in 2021.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Annual Report

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Minutes of the last AGM/APCM which took place on 18th April 2021

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Agenda of the AGM/APCM to be held on 22nd May 2022.

The Electoral roll is now up on the notice board please check that you name is on the document and report any errors to Nikki. We also have pink application forms for the Electoral roll at the back of Church for those that wish to join.



The ever-popular Stardust Big Band has started using St John's Church as their regular practice venue every Sunday evening and they have offered to do a concert for us in aid of church funds. Tickets will be available on the door for £10 each.

**Sunday 22nd May 2022** 6pm at St. John's Hillingdon

Concert by Stardust Big Band in aid of Church funds.

Tickets £10 on the door, Offers: 3 for the price of 2 Under 14's free.

Please tell your friends, neighbours, work-colleagues, etc. as the more people we can encourage to come along the more that will be raised for the on-going ministry of our church.

To give you a flavour of their music the attached link will take you to a very clever composite video of the band performing together (virtually) during the Covid pandemic lockdowns!

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

If you are able, please print out this poster [click here](#) and display it somewhere.





Please include in your prayers;

**The ongoing situation in the Ukraine. For all those** in fear, suffering, injured, bereaved, displaced.

**For Joyce Marshall**

Please continue to pray for Joyce her faith is strong and she is asking for your prayers for her, for her husband Hughie and the family at this time.

**For** The family and friends of baby Chay who sadly went to be with God.

**For Those getting Married at St John's:**

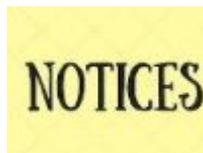
21st May - David and Edith

3rd June - Toryn and Tanya

4th June- Craig and Rachael

**For Those being Baptised at St John's:**

29th May- Presley



**Alpha Course March/April 2022 7:15 for a 7:30pm start**

Alpha is an exciting opportunity to come together as a group and discuss all things faith, life and what is the meaning of it all!

This will be an 8-week course with the opportunity for confirmation at the end. running every Wednesday from 30th March-May 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

It is perfect for everyone, from someone who knows their Bible word for word to those that want to explore. You do not need to know anything to come along.

Alpha is a great place to start and explore whilst making new connections with others who have questions just like you!

There will also be refreshments and snacks available.



During summer , the burglary rate increases as people leave doors and windows

open .. here are some tips on keeping your property safe.

**MAKE YOUR HOUSE SEEM OCCUPIED-** During the evenings and throughout the night when it's dark, consider leaving a light on as well as a radio or tv.

**TECHONLOGY-** Invest in a burglar alarm, cameras and even a ring doorbell. This allows you to get notifications to your phone when there is any motion outside your front door.

**REMEMBER TO LOCK UP –** When leaving your house, make it a habit to close and lock all windows and doors.

**KEEPING YOUR BELONGING SAFE –** Never leave anything valuable near windows or doors where people can look into and see.

**KEYS-** Try to think of a safe place to put spare keys other than under the door mat and under the plant pot, you could even consider allowing a neighbour to have a spare key if you trust them.

**SECURE YOUR FRONT AND BACK GARDENS-** Cut away any tall trees, bushes and hedges that cover your windows or doors. Thieves could use this to their advantage as an additional covering for breaking in.

**CALENDERS-** Did you know not only do thieves look for valuable belongings but for calendars too so they know when to invite themselves back....



### Looking Ahead....

**Sunday 22nd** 9am Service, 10:30am Service AGM/APCM. 6pm Stardust Big Band Concert.

**Monday** - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, 12noon Jazz, Private Prayer. 8pm Bellringing Practice, 8pm Mandolin Monday.

**Tuesday-** 9am Private Prayer, 10am Piano Tuning, 12noon Jazz, 7:30pm Accordion Band.

**Wednesday** - 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon Words and Music, 1pm Knitting Group. 7:15pm Alpha Course

**Thursday-** 9am Nikki Office, 9:30am Church hire, 12noon Jazz.

**Friday** - 10am Let's Go, 12noon Jazz.

**Saturday** - 11am- 4pm Music Tuition- Grundon Room.

**Sunday 29th** - 9am Service, 10:30am Service, 1pm Baptism of Presley.

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

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

**Wednesday** - 9:15am Nikki Office. 12noon Words and Music, 1pm Knitting Group, 7:15pm Alpha Course.

**Thursday** - 9:15am Nikki Office, 9:30am Church Hire, 12noon Jazz.

**Friday** - 10am Let's Go, 1pm Wedding Toryn and Tanya.

**Saturday** - 11am -4pm Music Tuition- Grundon Room. 2pm Wedding Craig and Rachael

### 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:  
Barclays Bank, 142 High St,  
Uxbridge, UB8 1JX  
Sort Code: 208916  
Account No: 20465615

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