

[View this email in your browser](#)

The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 49 Sun 28th February - Sat 6th March 2021
Registered Charity 1128058

[Donate](#)

Use online giving here to catch up on your giving or to make a donation.

In this Issue!

[Alan's Blog](#)

[Pray](#)

[Lent](#)

[Reading](#)

[ECO News](#)

[St John's History](#)

[Children's Society](#)

[Notices](#)

Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):

Click on the church image above from
Sunday 10am or on

<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

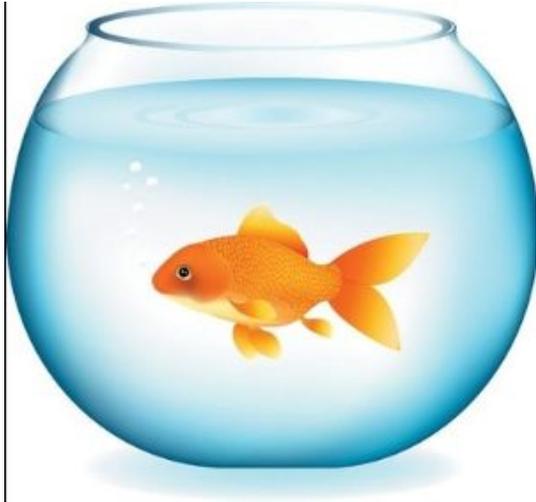


'Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be!'

I've been thinking a little bit recently about culture. I hope you will agree, and also disagree, with some of my thoughts and reflections for the blog this week. I would love to know your thoughts. I spent ten years teaching in the Black Country at Sedgley, Dudley, and I also trained for the

ministry at St. John's College, Nottingham. How different the chip shops are! I remember being taken aback when I paid my first visit to a fish and chip shop in Dudley, and was greeted with "Okay, my flower!?" I could get my chips there in a 'cob' if I wanted to. The experience of that chippy was very different to a Nottingham chippy where you can get greeted with "Ay up miduck!". You can also enjoy mint sauce on your mushy peas!

Yes, culture is different in different places. There are also 'big picture' paradigm shifts overall. As the old song (from the play of the same name) goes "Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'be"! Things are most certainly very different today and the society we live in is certainly very different to the society of a generation or so ago. There have been great changes in our culture.



Culture is 'the way we do things around here'. It can often be hard for us to see and recognise it for ourselves. I'm talking about the culture, the traditions, mindsets, prejudices, environment and attitudes that we have grown up with and that have shaped us, often very subconsciously. One of the reasons for this is that we are a part of our own culture, and it has become a part of us. We have become immersed in. If you want to know about water, don't ask a fish! The elements of our culture are like water to the fish: we are immersed and breathe them in everyday, but it is very difficult for us to see them.

There are classifications for culture. One of them is known as 'modernity'. This refers to the art, beliefs, thinking and influences of the time from roughly the late nineteenth century through to the end of the twentieth. There was then a lot of confidence in human reason and on advances in education, science and technology. There was a much greater sense of moving through life together and a community of shared experiences.

Then the 'postmodern' society followed on from the 'modern' era, often referred to as 'postmodernity'. Postmodernist culture was in part a reaction to modernism, with the dismantling of the traditional and modern ways of thinking. In the postmodern world we see fragmentation and society is composed of many internal social, ethnic, political and religious groups – and individualism.

Along with postmodernism was the development of individual autonomy, the right to do what one chooses. The choices on offer became immense; just consider for a moment the vast choice available when buying food in the supermarket, or when buying a new car or in deciding which of the many channels to watch on TV. There was much more fragmentation than with modernity. Yet all this autonomy did not really produce the promised freedom but led to the loss of community and respect. Society was 'broken' with the chaos that inevitably resulted from choice divorced from morality. Rights and individualism became king over togetherness and collective responsibility.

In postmodernity there is no absolute truth but many truths to life, all of which are acceptable to your own personal 'choice' and circumstances. Truth is relative to the community you live in or to who you are and, in a way, you decide what truth is for yourself. There is no one moral basis for life to be built on and there is the 'feel good' society; if something feels good, then do it, that's right for you.

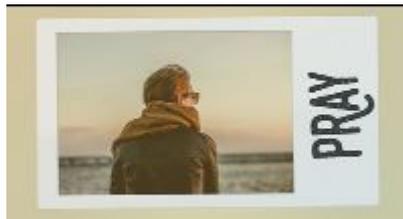
It is now argued that we live beyond postmodernity and that 21st century culture has outgrown it.

A key factor in this move away from postmodernism is the development of new technologies, communications and the internet age. It has been described as 'digimodernism' or 'pseudomodernism'. It can be argued that the coronavirus pandemic has now accelerated us clearly into digitimodernism.

We may feel a sense of loss for things as they were, as they used to be. Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'be! The sense of loss or of feeling left out, or of being more and more marginalised, can be very real. We feel like we don't fit in anymore with our culture or with life as it is today. This can be more acute in older generations. If you are feeling like this, it's good to be reminded that we actually do belong to the best and most loving and accepting community which is, of course, God's loving community of Father, Son, Holy Spirit along with the body of Christ, the Church.

In uncertain times we can be encouraged as believers that we have Christ as our anchor in changing times. The God of the universe always is the answer to fallen humanity amidst shifting sands. He provides the ultimate community of fellowship and belonging which is, of course, with our creator God. It is a community that includes us in through the death of Christ on the cross to be part of his body, the Church. In God we find the truth that matters, the 'true' truth and the light to live by it. In God we can find our security and identity, we are given a purpose in life and we know where we are headed into the future when we enter our heavenly home. What an answer and what a story we have for those around us in our culture today!

Keep Praying,
Alan



Prayer

Spirit of truth,
lead us into all truth,
Give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and to proclaim the word and works of God.
Amen.

(Adapted from Seasonal Blessings, common worship)

Listen to Carol's P R A Y talk from Sun 31 Jan [click here](#).

Listen to Matt's P R A Y talk from Sun 7 Feb [click here](#)

Listen to Rodney's P R A Y talk from Sun 14 Feb [click here](#)

Lent reflections on life in Christ and Personal Lent reflections

We are encouraging everyone to take part in daily reflections during Lent based on the book 'Rooted in Love' written by some of our Bishops, including the Bishop of London Sarah Mullally. Please purchase this book so that we can go through the book during Lent together. Click on the book image below to purchase the book via Amazon (just over £8). There is a Kindle electronic version available for £5.69.

Sunday Reading and Themes 28th February- end of March.

Sun 28 Feb: Romans10:5-13. **Those who call on the name of the Lord.** Chapter 12 p57.

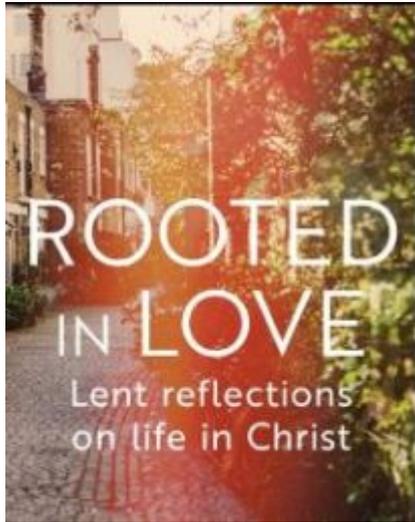
Sun 7 March: Ephessians4:1-6. **The Bond of Peace.** Chapter 19 p88.

Sun 14 March: 1corinthians2:10-16. **Having the mind of Christ.** Chapter 26 p118.

Sun 21 March: 1Peter1:13-15. **Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you.** Chapter 33 p147

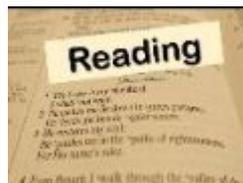
Sun 28 March: James1:2-4. **Let perseverance finish its work.** Chapter 40 p175

If you don't have access to the internet, or need help purchasing, please email stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com



ROOTED IN LOVE
Lent Course
Wednesday mornings
24th Feb - 31st March
at 10am
online via
St John's Church zoom

Click on book image above to order the book for our Lent reflections or email in to be sent a copy.



Romans10:5-13

5 Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”



Technology and sustainability

There are some free apps that can help you reduce your carbon footprint and have a healthier lifestyle.’ Giki Badges is a free app that can help you find sustainable and healthy products in the supermarket. Scan the barcode to check a product and you can see information to help you make choices. It also gives alternatives, checks for chemicals that give concern, high animal welfare,

additives and healthiness. You can check products at home in the cupboard to see how they fair. Giki Zero Is a free online guide to help calculate, track and reduce your environmental footprint. You can find out what your footprint is and take steps to reduce it. There are over 120 steps to suit your lifestyle and budget to cut your carbon footprint .It may take time but it could help as we need to change and live more sustainably.

Another app is OLIO. It helps to connect neighbours with each other and with local businesses to share surplus food that would otherwise be thrown away and so reduce food waste. It can also be used for non food items too. By using the app you can share an item by adding a photo and description and say where the item is available. To access you can browse the listings and arrange to collect with a private message.

More details of OLIO and Giki can be found online.

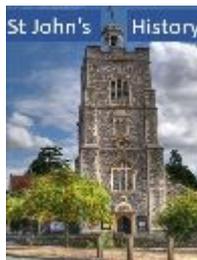
Lord, make us people who recognise,
nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this
planet.

Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom,
restraint and compassion.

And teach us to partner you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable
global neighbours.

Amen

Christine Rodrigues



A Tour around the Church Monuments.

Richard Croft- a life remembered in stained glass

Continuing our memorials tour, we are now heading down the North Aisle, but we are ignoring the tombs on the floor for now, I will come back to those at a later date. Half way down the north aisle there is a stained glass window depicting St Andrew, John the Baptist and St Matthew. The window was put there in memory of Reverend Richard Croft who was the Vicar of Hillingdon from 1856-1869. By the 1850s, the population in this area was beginning to rise, and Rev Croft saw the need for more churches. He gained permission to build 2 new churches, firstly in Yiewsley (St Matthew's) which was consecrated in 1859 and then in the area which was then known as Hillingdon West (St Andrew's), consecrated in 1865. Both churches were designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott.

Rev'd Croft was born in 1819 at Penshurst, Kent, son of Sir Richard Croft 6th Baronet Croft of Croft Castle (near Leominster). There is an interesting but sad story about Richard's father who was the royal obstetrician which can be found on the Wikipedia website. Rev'd Croft was married twice, firstly to Charlotte Leonora Russell and they had 2 sons, but she died in 1854 whilst her husband was Vicar of Hartburn, Northumberland. In 1856 Rev Croft took up his position as Vicar of St John's Hillingdon and he married Louisa Holland in 1857. Rev'd Croft then must have had a very busy few years setting up new 2 churches and in addition, the cemetery down the hill opened in 1867 so there was a lot going on!

He died in 1869 whilst still the Vicar of St John's but his memory lives on in the stained glass window in our north aisle, St Andrew and St Matthew representing the 2 churches he set up plus St John the Baptist representing his role as Vicar in Hillingdon.

Christine Bartlett



Rev'd Richard Croft Memorial.

**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

The Children's Society

Please [click here](#) for a link to the Children's Society Newsletter.

In the newsletter you will find information about a free webinar via Zoom about Strengthening the Safety Net – Supporting children and families in crisis. and highlights the work that The Children's Society do.

Date: Wednesday 3 March 2021, Time:2.00pm – 3.00pm.

About: exploring and supporting children and families in crisis. Hosted by Hannah Ratcliffe (Relationship Manager for the East of England), hear from The Right Reverend David Walker, Bishop of Manchester and a Vice-President of The Children's Society. Tickets are free but registration is essential via this Zoom link –

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AiAQhHtMT9e8sdFBUTfMfQ

Prayer

Loving Lord Jesus,
you reached out to children and blessed them;
be with our children and young people today.
Hold in your hands young lives disrupted by the pandemic,
facing uncertain futures in a changed world.
Bring your hope and blessing
to all young people feeling under pressure,
especially those who are lacking
safety, security and the consolation of friends.
Strengthen the work of those who support
the most vulnerable of these,
including staff and volunteers of The Children's Society.
Help all children and young people to find
strength, resilience and the hope of a better future,
and open our eyes to see where we
can make the difference for those to whom
the kingdom of God already belongs.
In your holy name we pray.
Amen.

The Children's Society Home Coin Boxes.

Please still 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, we hope to be in contact with you soon as to when we are able to collect your box. *Christine Bartlett*

NOTICES

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.

World Day Of Prayer

This year will be taking place on Friday 5th March 2021 at 2pm. You can take part at home by using the order of service. If you would like a copy please email Nikki. Christine has very kindly offered to pick up any order of services and drop them to anyone who wishes to take part.

If you would like to make a donation this can be done online by visiting www.wwdp.org.uk, or if you would like to give by cheque then using the brown envelope inside the order of service. You will need to place the brown envelope into another envelope and address to Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN1 2RR. To protect those working for the charity they are not accepting cash at this time.

A Message from Mildred

Dear All, Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As I mentioned, in my Story a few months ago, I am setting up a charity to build a school in Uganda. I am still waiting for it to be registered as a charity so at the moment I don't have a charity number. The implication of this affects my fundraising which at the moment is through a GoFundMe account.

Please visit the website at <https://www.gwakabboschoolproject.org/> and share with your friends and families. Donations can be made through the website above or by the following methods:

1. Directly to the Bank Account at:

Gwakabbo School Project
Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-90-89
Account No: 542-721-68

2. By Cheque written to:

Gwakabbo School Project (your name as a Ref)
11 Orchard Cottages
Dawley Road
Hayes
UB3 1EL

Thank you in advance for your prayers for this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarifications on any information regarding the website or charity.

May God's Blessings and Protection remain with you and upon your homes and families. *Mildred*.

Adapted Masks for those who wear Hearing Aids

For those of us who wear hearing aids masks can be very difficult. I have done some research and if you search on Esty British there is a wide selection of masks with elastic round the head. They are also on Amazon. You can also get mask extenders. My friends in Canada lost hearing

aids in their store so I sent them a mask. You could also research the internet. Put in British as there are a lot of American firms doing them. I hope this is of help to those hearing aid wearers.

Jennifer Dewey



Example of an overhead mask.



**COVID-19 VACCINE
FACT CHECK**

NHS

-  The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge.
-  The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity.

NHS COVID Vaccine Scam

Several reports have been circulating of people being contacted by fraudsters offering the COVID-19 vaccine. Please [click here](#) for more information.



Loving, Growing, Sharing with Jesus to Transform Lives

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

[Click here](#) for pdf file of this edition

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

