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## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 74 Sun 22nd August - Sat 28th August 2021  
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### **In this Issue!**

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### **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](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

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[www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk)



I was hoping to write this tomorrow (Tuesday 17th), when I was actually sitting on a train making my way to Liverpool to visit my son. My nerve failed me in case I couldn't send the email for whatever reason and you would be blog deprived! Anyway, what I wanted to talk about this month was that feeling of being in transition. Being on a train is a perfect example of it and I love

undertaking any sort of journey, especially trains. This is unusual for me as I don't usually feel that comfortable out of routine and a time of transition can be a strange space to occupy. However, when I'm sitting in my seat, hopefully by a window, there is nothing I can do but enjoy the journey. Anything that remains undone is left behind, out of my control and for once I don't worry about what's to come, as I'm not there yet. There really is nothing to do but sit back and enjoy the moment, even my usual overactive mind slows down as I just gaze out of the window thinking of nothing in particular. There is a film called *The Terminal* with Tom Hanks, his character ends up living in transition in an airport when he temporarily loses his nationality. Based very loosely on a true story, the ever charming Tom Hanks (or at least his character) gets on with his life as best he can, establishing a routine, making friends and even has the opportunity for a romance!

Transitions are not always smooth though and can feel very awkward. My sister reminded me the other day of that peculiar feeling when you've checked out of your hotel resort but you have a few hours left before it's time to head for the airport. The day before you felt as though you totally belonged and now you feel very displaced - you're in transition. Ask anyone who's moved house if they find the transition straightforward! Your familiar belongings are all packed up, it's technically still your house but your future life is ahead of you somewhere new and unfamiliar. Sometimes we have no choice but to live in a time of transition and we've certainly all been doing that since the arrival of the pandemic. As restrictions and rules ease ever more, we may still feel in transition. Lots of familiar routines are coming back but so much is not the same, maybe we are transitioning into a new era. I've heard commentators say that when the history books are written, they may well refer to the pre and post pandemic eras. We may well be living right in the middle of that - in transition.

If that makes you feel a bit like a displaced holiday maker take heart; as Christians we can be reassured that it's a natural state for us to live in. As soon as God put his plans into action and became one of us through Jesus, the kingdom of God was ushered in and we're living in it now. We are in transition though, we live in the now but not yet. So much of God's kingdom awaits us in the not yet while we are tasked to live our lives to the full in the now and enable others to do so too. We can choose to spend this time as best we can, rather like the character in the Tom Hanks film, establishing good relationships and never forgetting our true nationality is that of a citizen of God's kingdom.

I had something to drop into Christine and Brian the day before they moved and the removal van was parked up on their drive. It had this bold message on its side "We Don't Just Take Your Stuff, We Move Your Life. Ready to Move?" Well the Bartletts were ready to move and just had to put up with that last couple of days of being in transition. The next day their stuff was taken and their lives moved; only to Reading I hasten to add, they haven't yet transitioned into the next part of God's kingdom! To live at peace in God's kingdom I'd change the removal company's slogan and challenge myself (you too if you're not already doing it) by asking Ready to Live in Transition? I'm going to give it a go, trying to live each day remembering that my home lies with God wherever I may find myself. Now all I need to do is face the stressful ordeal of packing for my trip to Liverpool ... that's a tale for another blog! **Caroline Reed**

### **Father God**

*When we feel rather lost and uneasy in times of transition, help us to live in the now, making the most of every day, assured that you are in total control of the not yet. Amen.*



Slogan on the side of the Bartlett's removal van.



## **New Teaching Series Book of Colossians Week 6: Making the most of opportunities. (Even those ones we don't choose for ourselves.)**

### **Colossians 4:2-18**

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. 7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

8 I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. 9 He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) 11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

17 Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord." 18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.



### **Tips for a more sustainable summer from Tearfund -1**

Whatever adventures you've got planned for the next few weeks, we've got some tips to help keep your summer sustainable. A new UN report this week has given the starkest warning yet about the urgency of the climate crisis – and we all have a part to play in tackling it. By making greener choices we have the opportunity to demonstrate our love for our global neighbours and for God's creation while sending a clear message that we want decision-makers to act to build a better, fairer world.

#### **Tourist in your own town**

The need to stay closer to home has reminded us how much there is to do and enjoy on our doorstep. Here are a few ways to enjoy your local area in an environmentally friendly way.

- Shop local. Local shops and restaurants often source their goods and produce locally, helping to reduce the miles they've travelled and therefore their carbon footprint. By staying local it's also easier to walk or cycle to get there, reducing the air pollution of your journey.

- Remember your reusables! Whether a day trip or a full staycation, remember to take your own

bottles, cups and cutlery to reduce disposable plastic usage. It always helps to plan ahead – is there anything you can bring along to avoid having to purchase while out?

- Explore your local area. Adventures don't have to be far away – why not check out a new local park on foot or on a bike? If you're in a city, why not look up any local electric bike hire schemes for the day?
- Make the most of local events. With events starting up again, there may be more happening in your neighbourhood than you realise! If you have some free time, why not check local community boards or social media groups for local events you can join (abiding by coronavirus regulations in your area)?

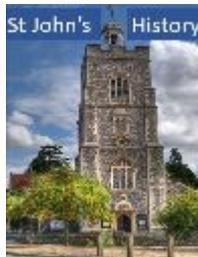
### **Take some time to take stock**

While some of our regular calendar events might still be on pause, this summer could be a great opportunity to take a step back and look at which areas of your lifestyle you could adapt to live more sustainably.

- Do a 'waste audit' at home. Go through different rooms and note down the products you use. Could you find any lower-waste alternatives for them? Or take the time to go through your waste as a family, record what items you throw out or recycle the most, and then research what lower-waste options you could replace them with. If there's a few of you in your household, why not turn it into a summer challenge for who can reduce their waste the most?
- Calculate your carbon footprint. Carbon calculators can be helpful tools to pick up tips on how to further reduce emissions, and Giki Zero is a great tool for whatever stage of the journey you are on. It could also spark conversations in your household to learn what areas of your lifestyle you could change to live a little greener.

### **Keep cool with green fuel**

Now could be a great time to look at your energy provider, check if they're using renewable sources and, if not, consider swapping to a renewable energy provider. To find out how you can make the switch check out Tearfund's Big Switch platform. **Christine Rodrigues**



### **Message from Christine Bartlett**

*Greetings from Reading! Our house move went well although there is quite a bit of unpacking yet to be done. My Hillingdon history books and papers are still in boxes but fortunately I had this article "in the bag".*

### **Hillingdon History -Drew Saunders**

Near the coffee table at the back of church is a large piece of stone mounted on the wall with brass figures attached. The inscription is as follows:

*Here lyeth Drew Saunders Gentleman sumtyme of the right worshipful company of the merchants of the staple of England and was buried on 4 of April 1579.*

There is also a figure brass of a lady, presumably Mrs Saunders, plus 2 children.

The "merchants of the staple" that are referred to in the inscription were **incorporated by Royal Charter in 1319 and dealt in wool, skins, lead and tin. The organisation was formed to control imports and it also meant that tax could be charged by the Crown.** In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the staple transactions took place in Westminster but in 1378 a new establishment was set up at Staple Inn in High Holborn. This building survived the Great Fire of London and was bombed in World War 2 and amazingly is still standing!

We know a little bit about Drew Saunders. He lived at Moorcroft (by Merrimans Corner). The house would not have been as we know it today, in Drew Saunder's day it would have been a vernacular farmhouse and formed part of the extensive estate owned by the Manors of Colham and Hillingdon. Over the centuries, the house has been enlarged and extended and is now I

believe a mix of flats and a school.

Next time you drive or walk past Moorcroft, take a moment to think what it was like for Drew

Saunders and his family living there in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. No mod cons for them! **Christine Bartlett**



**Drew Saunders Memorial**



**A prayer for God's guidance**

*Almighty Lord and everlasting God,*

*We ask you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies*

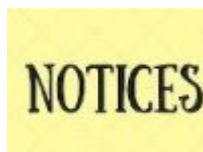
*in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments;*

*that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,*

*we may be preserved in body and soul;*

*through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

**Amen.**



**Westminster Abbey**

**Family Day: Carnival of the Animals**

**Saturday, 28 August**

**9am - 3pm**

Creative crafts, magnificent music and sensational stories for the whole family to enjoy. There will

be activities running in the Abbey throughout the day,  
Price included in the price of admission (£18 per adult) Children are free.

[Find out more](#)

### **Key Training Events in the Willesden area open to all**

#### **14 September 7.30 pm**

An Intercultural Discussion Event open to all

[Race, Ethnicity and Christian Identity](#)

regular working group meeting on Intercultural Church led by Willesden worship leaders.

#### **30 September 7.00 pm**

A workshop open to all

[Willessden Modern Slavery Awareness Workshop](#)

an important awareness raising event on modern slavery, hosted by the Compassionate Communities section of the Diocese of London.

They are all on Zoom and FREE. Booking links are highlighted in blue simply click on the link which gives further information on the facilitators and the event itself. Nikki

#### **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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