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St. John's Church,
Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP
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

Text/Phone 07972 618584

Vicar: Alan Bradford

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Bible Reading Studies and Thoughts for the Day

I thought I would include in the blog some daily reading materials for you to reflect on.

This source might also prove a regular source for you each morning if you do not have a regular scheme, or if what you are using is proving stale. You might like (or be suitably challenged) by what you read and want to look up other studies from where the one before came from.

However, nothing beats regular, sustained prayer and Bible reading. I hope you are able to join in with the regular reading and study of The Book of Acts which is our special study book and preaching theme at this time.

The following is a daily reading from the Bible Reading fellowship (BRF) "Daily Reflections"

Pray.

Lord, open my ears to hear what you have to say to me; open my heart to love your word, and open my mind to understand your truth.

Read Acts 16Daily Reflection

After Paul and Silas released a slave girl from a demonic spirit, her owners, who were exploiting her, had Paul and Silas arrested. During their incarceration they were heavily guarded and locked in stocks – a pretty dismal situation. One reaction that we can have to tough situations in which it seems there is no escape is despair. Sometimes we lose hope and express lament and mourning when we feel trapped in a situation. However, Paul and Silas expressed themselves through praise and prayer. Instead of mourning, they revealed their deep hope and faith in God.

The Bible is full of passages of lament for bad situations that the nation of Israel finds itself in.

There is a place for lament and it can be a healthy form of human response to a bad situation.

However, this passage demonstrates that there is an alternative to despair. Paul and Silas lean on their knowledge that God is good, even though their situation seems bleak.

When they were miraculously freed from prison, their trust in God caused them to wait rather than immediately seeing their chance and fleeing. This allowed them to witness to the jailer who, having seen all the unlocked doors and imagined the trouble he would be in, was about to take his own life. Their demonstration of hope and dependence on God led to the salvation of the jailer and the prisoners who were in their dark situation with them.

Pray

Dear God, please help me to remember your goodness even when I am in difficult circumstances. Help me to have hope when there is no way to see through the darkness, and to wait on you even when it seems there is an easy way out.

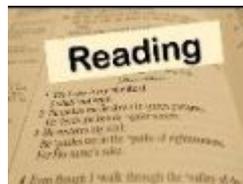
Next Outdoor Service

Sunday 6th September at 4pm.

In the Gardens next to the Church around the cross.

2m social distancing will be observed at all times and face masks.

Come on your own or within your family/ 'bubble'- Bring a chair.

**Acts 15:1-14 & 19-31**

15 Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

3 The church sent them on their way, and as they travelled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad.

4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. 5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. 7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither

we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. 13 When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me.

14 Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.

19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

21 For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

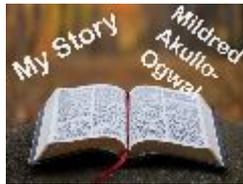
22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers.

23 With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings. 24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.

28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: 29 You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

30 So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. 31 The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.



My Story- Mildred Ruth Akullo-Ogwai **Part Two**

After O-level and A-level studies, I joined a teacher training college to train as a teacher. The decision to join Teacher Training stemmed from my experiences as a child whose parents were teachers and, working with the Sunday school nudged me in the direction of teaching; a career that I have enjoyed very much.

I joined a teacher training college in 1975, studying Geography and Literature in English. In my last year in College 1977, we had such political stress in the country and my tribe was the target of the brutality of Idi Amin, the military dictator. He came to power in 1971 after taking over the government in a military coup that ousted Dr Apolo Milton Obote. Most of the civil servants and soldiers who were from Lango and Acholi ethnic tribes had fled into exile immediately after the coup to other countries of the world. However, things continued to get worse as there was a worldwide sanction imposed on trade and travel with Uganda. The suffering in the country was immense as I headed into my first job as a teacher. Amin became very suspicious of many people and his military arm reached far and wide in stamping out any signs of opposition or whoever dared complain of lack of basic and essential goods such as salt and soap. This eventually

resulted in the murder of the Archbishop of Church of Uganda, which created a fresh wave of departure into exile by many people.

The last two years of Idi Amin's rule were the most stressful time for us; Idi Amin's State Research (the Gestapo type of mechanism) started identifying and kidnapping any adult male who was from Lango or Acholi, abducting them during the night and killing them because they came from the same ethnic group as the ousted President, Milton Obote. The soldiers sometimes came into school in the day time and picked students they knew; who then pointed out the houses where teachers from Lango and Acholi lived. For fear of the soldiers we sometimes slept in classrooms or out in the fields. By the Grace of God we were rescued from Amin's brutality by Tanzanian soldiers in 1979. I remained teaching in the same school where I had been placed for teaching practice.

Idi Amin was not the end of our suffering at the hands of military leadership in Uganda. After two caretaker interim governments, we had an election and nation rebuilding amidst insurgences which ended into another overthrow of an elected government. Other than wait to be brutalised, I left with Sharon aged 4 and Daniel aged 6; and moved to the UK.

Moving countries and continents was a challenge that I did not take lightly. It was a choice between getting killed or getting out. All the Christian teachings I had been exposed to were drawn into a practice. Going into the unknown was unimaginable. But God was with me the whole time; although at that time it was not clear. When I look back from the first day of my arrival in the UK, the Lord provided for us in astonishing ways.

For example, our first church attendance after the second week of arrival in the UK was at Holy Trinity Church, Wealdstone. Amazingly that day, Reverend Brian Herd was a visiting preacher in the church. As soon as the church wardens found out that we were from Uganda, they took us to meet Rev. Herd and his wife Norma. When I saw them, I recognised both of them as I had attended the church in Uganda where they had served. After I introduced myself, they were able to remember my aunt who was a regular member of their congregation. They quickly took our address and arranged to take us to visit them. Our first Christmas which was barely a month after our arrival from Uganda was spent with these beautiful and loving people of God. The magnitude and overwhelming way the system in the UK worked was totally eliminated as the Herd family who had lived in Uganda knew where I could get all the things I needed which would make our lives much easier and more comfortable to live. Isn't God amazing in the ways He works?

The rest of my story could create a book, so I won't take any more of your time with it, except to say that I settled in, went to college (as my Ugandan qualifications were not recognised in the UK) and have worked in the Local Authority; and in schools in Hillingdon and Surrey as a teacher. I am now retired and hoping to help build a vocational school in Uganda to help the local communities that continue to suffer various kinds of disadvantages including recovery from subsequent wars and corrupt administrative systems.

Becoming regular worshippers at St. John's: After we had moved to Hillingdon near the Fire Station on the Uxbridge Road, I told Sharon that she would lead us to our church. We asked the Lord to lead us to a church before we left the house. Sharon took over the lead once we were out of the house. She turned to the right, and we walked to the traffic lights on Long Lane Road. She could have turned into Long Lane, but she decided that we cross the road and continued along the Uxbridge Road and then ended up at St. John's Church. We crossed the road to see the times for services in preparation for the following Sunday.

We had no doubts, and all 3 of us agreed that we would attend St. John's. We have not regretted God's choice of a church for us and feel we are at home. We could have ended up in any of the many churches along the Uxbridge Road, but God brought us to St. John's. We moved to Hayes a year later, but were happy to take two buses to get to church. When Daniel and Sharon joined Dr. Triplett's School in Hayes I suggested to them that we move to St. Mary's Church but they both refused; so here we are still enjoying Worship and Fellowship at St. John's. I would like to say, thank you to all at St. John's for being such a welcoming, loving and caring church.

God has been incredible and done wonderful things in my life. I always like to attribute all the blessings I have continued to receive to my grandparents and parents for their prayers over us. My settling in was smooth; and although I did not know anyone in the UK on arrival, I met kind people who treated me with much love and I thank God for these people.

My reflection on the Lockdown: During the height of lockdown when I could not go out, I was very frustrated of being locked away from the life I knew as 'normal'. As I reflected on my Word for the Day, a thought hit me and for the first time I thought about how God must feel when His own children lock Him out of their lives, when all He desires is a relationship with us. *Mildred*



Picture of Mildred and her siblings singing at their father's Memorial Service.



Stained Glass Windows & the Chippindale Family

In last week's On Line Link I talked about the east window of St John's which was destroyed by a bomb in World War 2. Also destroyed by the same bomb blast, were three windows in the south aisle, which had only been in place for 14 years. I'm glad to say that the little angel windows survive intact.

The windows had been a gift in 1926 by Arthur Chippindale and were dedicated to 3 Chippindale family weddings that took place at St John's in 1788, 1820 and 1859. The Chippindale family lived in a house called The Lodge in Uxbridge which stood where Chippendale Alley and Chippendale Way now run (the road to Sainsbury's!) There is a family tomb in our churchyard- See Below picture.

The windows must have been fabulous as they were designed by William Morris & Co. Such a shame they were lost and as far as I know there aren't any photos of them in existence. We do however have a few details of the design which are intriguing as various characteristics of the family were represented in the windows as follows: a centurion (prudence), Salome (devotion), Enoch (godliness), St Veronica (meekness), St Martin (generosity). Interestingly, the William Morris & Co website has a design for the Enoch window which has been used in various other churches in the UK and Calcutta! I have to confess at this point, I did not know who Enoch was, but apparently he was Noah's great grandfather!

St Martins Church at West Drayton also has 2 William Morris windows also paid for by Arthur Chippindale in memory of other local family members. I went to see them a few weeks ago and they are beautiful. If you get a chance to go, I thoroughly recommend a visit. *Christine Bartlett*



A Photo of the Chippindale Family Tomb in St John's Churchyard.



Food Waste

Ideas and information from the Hillingdon People Magazine Throwing away food can have a harmful effect on the environment.

Food waste makes up 30% of domestic waste. If each household recycled just 2 kilograms of food waste per week it would save 600,000 tonnes of harmful emissions a year.

Some ways to help us reduce the amount of food we waste.

1. Make a note of what you throw away may highlight which foods are Going unused. This can help to make adjustments to what you buy.
2. Check what you have in your cupboards so that you do not double up. Make a list before you go or shop online. Plan your meals.
3. Store food correctly to preserve the shelf life. Freeze items that may expire Before you get to use them. Freeze any leftovers.
4. Use leftover food to make other meals, If you have room in the garden put fruit and veg peelings in a compost or hot bin. Hillingdon will provide a food caddy for inside and a larger one for collection day. The waste food is recycled and used for compost and fertiliser.

Check the website at hillingdon.gov.uk/food-waste.

Christine Rodrigues



Blame the Vicar.

by Sir John Betjeman (Sent in by Marigold Marsh)

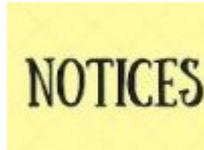
When things go wrong it's rather tame
 To find we are ourselves to blame,
 It gets the trouble over quicker
 To go and blame things on the Vicar.

The Vicar, after all, is paid
 To keep us bright and undismayed.
 The Vicar is more virtuous too
 Than lay folks such as me and you.
 He never swears, he never drinks,
 He never should say what he thinks.
 His collar is the wrong way round,
 And that is why he's simply bound
 To be the sort of person who
 Has nothing very much to do
 But take the blame for what goes wrong
 And sing in tune at Evensong.

For what's a Vicar really for
 Except to cheer us up? What's more,

He shouldn't ever, ever tell
 If there is such a place as Hell,
 For if there is it's certain he
 Will go to it as well as we.
 The Vicar should be all pretence
 And never, never give offence.
 To preach on Sunday is his task
 And lend his mower when we ask
 And organize our village fetes
 And sing at Christmas with the waits
 And in his car to give us lifts
 And when we quarrel, heal the rifts.

To keep his family alive
 He should industriously strive
 In that enormous house he gets,
 And he should always pay his debts,
 For he has quite six pounds a week,
 And when we're rude he should be meek
 And always turn the other cheek.
 He should be neat and nicely dressed
 With polished shoes and trousers pressed,
 For we look up to him as higher
 Than anyone, except the Squire.



Eco Service 23rd August

The words from the Eco outdoor service, held on the 23rd August are now available on our website for those that were not able to be there or would like a copy.

Event

This Saturday 5th September. Christine Bartlett has arranged a walk around the parish the walk is approx. 7.5 miles. we will be stopping for lunch and breaks if you would like to join us please contact Nikki via email or phone- see above for details.

Next Outdoor Service

Sunday 6th September at 4pm.

In the Gardens next to the Church around the cross.
 2m social distancing will be observed at all times and face masks.
 Come on your own or within your family/ 'bubble'- Bring a chair.

Thank You and Cupola Grant Application

Thank you for all who have been generous in contributing towards our building costs and towards the works needed on the cupola. We have managed to submit our part 2 application for a grant for the cupola 21 days early! The grant is for £24,000 and we are contributing £6,000. This covers stabilisation and a timber survey to look towards its permanent repair. The deadline is the end of August and we should hear back if we are successful early in September, although we wanted to put ourselves in the position of possibly hearing back earlier from English Heritage! You never know!

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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