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# The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 30 Sun 11th - Sat 17th October 2020  
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## In this Issue!

- [Alan's Blog](#)
- [Reading](#)
- [My Story](#)
- [Eco News](#)
- [Hillingdon Histories](#)
- [Operation Christmas Child News](#)

St. John's Church,  
Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP  
[www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk](http://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](mailto:stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com)  
Text/Phone 07972 618584

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## Expect the unexpected!

It's Sunday evening and I wasn't expecting Manchester United to lose 6-1 at home, even if it was to Tottenham Hotspur! Then, as I write this, last season's strugglers Aston Villa have just thrashed run-away champions Liverpool 7-2! That's amazing!

We have just had our 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday service on Zoom! We will be doing so for a while yet. Who could ever have thought or expected that we would spend over half of our 2020 Sunday services

worshipping through laptop, ipad and phone screens! Who would ever have thought that many who have stayed away from the internet are now with us on Zoom!

We have been seeing how the apostle Paul is treated badly almost wherever he goes when spreading the word of God. He gets persecuted, beaten up, stoned to the point of death, beaten with rods and on a good few occasion thrown into jail. For once, in Acts 18, he isn't beaten up but it is the synagogue leader Sosthenes who is! Now that was unexpected and unusual for him. I am sure a welcome relief. He didn't get jailed and he was able to stay in Corinth preaching and teaching for about 2 years.

I think that 'expecting the unexpected' is something that is, or needs to be, part of our faith journeys. I wasn't expecting this week to meet up with someone who defied my expectations by offering to step out courageously in faith, to serve and tell people about God. This was without being prompted or encouraged, and doesn't, unfortunately, happen that often.

Our faith isn't what we believe it's what we do with what we believe. If we are faithful in prayer, in reading scripture, in worshipping together and in stepping out it will not be an ordinary, or comfortable, life at all. It will not always be predictable and if our goal is merely comfort and security given by the things of this world then we desperately need to seek God's guidance and his vision and to keep trying in faith for him. As our preachers have been encouraging us to do, let's keep going forward and acting in faith and to pot with any fear of failure! In fact, it is the failures that teach us so much. As we learn to move forward in faith, I love the quote that Carol shared with us in her preaching on Sunday, "The only real failure is to give up trying."

### **Faith means trying!**

#### **Prayers**

Please pray for our world, for a country that is on your heart and for those struggling with health. Pray for those who are losing, have lost or are likely to lose their jobs.

A special prayer this week is to pray for Naomi Hollands. Naomi works with the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) which is a UK-based charity that was founded in 1928. She works with, and encourages, the University of Bedfordshire Christian Union (CU) in Luton, The University of Hertfordshire CU and Brunel University CU. Brunel Uni have had a good CU uptake at the start of this academic year, so thank God for that and that more will join. Please pray for Naomi and the Brunel CU Committee which includes Winnie Chan on team. Pray for Naomi, Winnie and the committee as they connect with students and draw them into friendship and further into faith. Pray for revelation and growth during the small group studies and the events.

In God's grace,

Alan



Naomi Hollands- Staff worker for Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Brunel.



### Acts 19:1-7 &11-20

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. 4 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all.

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”

16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. 17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.

20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.



### My Story; Unmasked - By Henry Slamaker

#### Part 4 of 4

Prior to St John’s, I worshipped at a Baptist church for about two decades and overall enjoyed it. As my son grew up I began to be able to do more, like play Clarinet in the worship team band. This was something that I almost never got to do. Way back at school I signed up to learn Clarinet. The teacher took me on and I had a few weeks worth of lessons. Then the tutor told me straight that he saw no point in me carrying on with learning the instrument. The problem was my pinkie finger. It didn’t reach the keys while the other pinkie did. It was obvious to the teacher that I was never going to fully reach the vital keys needed to play. He recommended I take up the trumpet or brass instrument that didn’t require the use of that finger. I approached the brass teacher with these words; “Hi, I would like to play the slidy thing my Nan used to like in the bands she watched with me on the telly please”. He must have thought ‘I’ve got a right one here. They don’t even know the name of the instrument they wish to convince me they want to play!’ I played Trombone for about 8 years but once I moved to Scotland and money was an issue, I didn’t carry on because I didn’t have an instrument.

It wasn’t until I moved back to my parent’s home that I saw a local music shop was selling a Clarinet in a closing down sale. I was working at Hillingdon Hospital at that time, so I bought it but never had time to try and learn it. I’m not even sure why I bought it, knowing I would probably

never be able to play it. I still had the tune a day book that my parents had bought when I was in school. Again, I have no idea why I kept the tutor book. Inside the cover it says my name and class 1Z. It was only after I moved into my own place and that job had come to a natural end of contract that I began playing music again. I didn't remember anything from those few lessons back in school but luckily I remembered music from all the Trombone lessons. That was a huge help even though the two instruments were nothing alike and used different musical languages. My biggest struggle was to make my pinkie finger reach the keys. Then there is no bone in the tip of the small part of the finger that does reach. Even now that finger can slip off or completely miss the key for what seems like no good reason and result in a wrong note. Or as I like to call them 'passing notes' because if I'm quick enough to move off of the note and onto a right note, people don't really notice and I get away with it; or it passes as intentional ornamentation or expression. It is amazing how much a person can adapt and overcome. Having taught myself to play the very instrument a teacher had told me I could never play, there God was, using me in a church band with it.

Well, that brings me to leaving that Baptist church and joining St John's. I already knew one or two faces at St J which helped make my mind up as to where to go, but having just dealt with rejection on a mass scale having finally revealed my sexuality to be the reason I don't want to date, I was still unsure and nervous. I am so glad that I continued coming along anyway. When it came time for me to get more involved at St J, I started out making tea and coffee but soon gravitated towards music. I also wanted to be part of Children's ministry. The first time I asked about getting involved with the toddler group my interest was turned away because I simply wasn't needed at that time. That was that I thought. To my surprise I was later approached because someone was leaving and it opened a space for me. Until lockdown I was really enjoying everything about being part of that group and ministry.

I was working for care management group (CMG) as a support worker when I first started visiting St J. CMG is a social care home for people with profound multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) which are usually accompanied with other things like cerebral palsy, total global delay, schizophrenia that is not well managed with the maximum medication available, among other things. Most had epilepsy of varying levels. I worked most Sundays and only had one Sunday a month to be able to get along to church. Unlike other support workers I didn't travel from one persons home to another home. The people I supported were more severe and often had been court ordered as lacking capacity. I worked mostly with those who were non verbal and needed 1-1 support throughout the whole shift. When one person was hospitalised for 7 months, I supported him there instead. I gave up this job when my eldest sister became too sick with cancer and needed me to be available for things like errands and child care etc. She passed away in January 2017. I really don't know how I would have coped if it wasn't for St J folk. I'm not going to call out names of individuals, but many supported me in a variety of ways.

The loss of a loved one is never a good thing but I believe that God works everything for good. That includes the bad. Yet I couldn't see how God was going to pull off something good out of this bad. Here we are 3 years on and God has done so many good things and on top of that, Daniel has flourished and become an amazing young lad. I will confess that I was a little mentally hesitant to take him on. Don't miss understand, I rushed to physically go get him and move him in. I mean I felt so scared of messing up and had so many thoughts running on repeat. Things like 'what if' I can't provide him with what he needs? 'What if' he has emotional and mental upset or damage that I simply can't fix? There were a lot more 'What ifs'. That said, I have never second guessed my decision nor will I ever regret it. He has enriched my life beyond measure.

Through another member of St J's, I have had the fantastic opportunity to experience playing Clarinet in RAF Halton voluntary band. All in all, I haven't done too badly for someone who was once told they would never be able to play the Clarinet. There have been some amazing moments, like playing for the war widow's memorial at the cenotaph in London. The first time I will never forget for two reasons. 1. As I came out of the building to form rank I walked straight into one of those bollards. It was noticed as I heard the crowd's reaction. 2. As I stood there on parade during the service, I glanced to my left with my eyes and a lady in a wheelchair with a row of medals pinned to her chest looked back at me. She made a point of making eye contact and silently mouthed "Thank you" and all I could do was stand there to attention, holding my

instrument. As for my second year of taking part in this service, all went well until the service ended and we began our march back towards the starting point to be dismissed. It went like this – Left, right, left, right, left, crash! To my horror half of my clarinet just decided to fall apart and land loudly on the floor. I couldn't just stop as there was another group behind us marching. Also, bystanders were still recording with their mobile phones. I couldn't leave it for the group behind to trip over either so I made the choice to quickly and embarrassingly swoop down to retrieve it. As I did I could hear the group's leader behind me instructing them – "small steps left, right, left, small steps, small steps". It seemed like forever had passed in such a short space of time, I then carried on marching at double speed in order to catch up with the rest of my unit.

The next leg of my life's journey is not straight forward. Whose is? Nor is it always going to be easy. I have no idea what life holds. I am also aware that tomorrow is not promised to us, but I do know these two important things among other things. 1. God has always been faithful to me before and will be again. 2. I am blessed to be part of St John's where I have experienced that St J folk are safe to authentically be myself with. *Henry Slamaker*



**Thinking of Water**

The flush! We flush many objects and substances down the loo apart from the obvious! Chemicals, cotton buds, cotton wool, small pieces of various materials, personal items can end up down the loo. Many things end up in our water systems and the sea affecting wildlife and the environment. Plastic sticks from cotton buds have been found on the beach. Think about what goes down the drain. The chemicals we use day to day in the products we use for cleaning, washing, decorating and other household tasks. We all need water especially now to wash our hands, keep things clean and prevent covid-19. Many people in the world do not have access to clean water or to a water source of any sort. They have to travel long distances for their water. We

can do our bit by thinking about our water use and by supporting charities that are helping to improve the conditions and access to clean water for people in many parts of the world. *Christine Rodrigues*

### WWF.

For anyone who is interested in measuring their carbon footprint, there is a questionnaire you can fill out on the **World Wildlife Fund UK** Website. They work towards achieving a planet where nature and people can live together. They suggest ways that we can reduce our carbon emissions, thereby helping us to live in a more sustainable manner.

It does not cost anything to register your interest and is full of ways you can get involved and keeping you updated and informed with regards to protecting our wildlife and forests, the animals in danger of extinction, the damage to our marine life and the climate. We all have an important part to play in helping to protect our planet and I do hope that you take a look and have a go at answering the questionnaire, which is at the bottom of the first page under the heading "**For a Future Where People & Nature Thrive**".

There are many Trusts out there, such as the RSPB, the National Trust, Marine Conservation and the Woodland Trust and it can all seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be, this is a good one to start off with, if you are not already doing so, just complete the questionnaire on WWF UK and see how large, or small, your footprint is! *Lynn Clark*.

### Praying for the Planet

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October is the new moon, the day we particularly remember our beautiful planet in prayer, meditation, awareness or involvement, with love, hope and gratitude.

Awareness of the need to adopt policies to protect the planet is increasing. During September there was:

The BBC programme 'Extinction: the facts' highlighting the huge increase in the rate of extinctions and biodiversity loss.

The WWF and Zoological Society of London's Living Planet Report 2020: bending the curve of biodiversity loss.

The UN's Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 report which outlines eight major transitions needed to slow, then halt nature's accelerating decline.

The Leader's Pledge for Nature <https://www.leaderspledgefornature.org/> signed by the leaders of 76 countries including the UK, promising to put wildlife and climate at the heart of post-Covid recovery plans.

The UN summit on biodiversity.

The Leader's Pledge is good news, but we have a history of governments making promises for the environment that do not come to pass. One big step forward would be to see ecocide recognised as an international crime <https://www.stopecocide.earth/>.

Let us do all we can prayerfully and practically to see these policies and more put into place. *Jane Upchurch*



### **The De Salis family- Follow Up**

Last week I wrote about the De Salis family who lived at Dawley Court. Following on from this I have received 2 emails!

The first email was from Chris Rodrigues:

*I sent your local history notes on the De Salis house to my brother. We lived in Dickens Avenue near Corwell Lane. I walked to primary school along Goulds Green past orchards and pigs and there were gravel pits at Stockley Park. There was a row of tall elm trees at the bottom of our garden and a ditch, my brother climbed the trees, I wasn't very good at that.*

Chris was also asking for more information about Goulds Green and Judds Farm which I am going to help her with. I have also recommended to her the National Library of Scotland's website which has lots of old maps available for free which can help enormously.

The second email was from local historian Mr Ken Pearce:

*You are right to think that the family worshipped at Hillingdon rather than Harlington. Cecil De Salis was a churchwarden at St John's for a long period, first with JF Stilwell, and later with Gilfrid Craig.*

*My mother attended the girls school in Royal Lane (now Cheeky Chums) and also the church. She remembered the De Salis family arriving in a horse-drawn carriage each Sunday, but the children were not wearing shoes. Their parents thought that they should harden their feet, so despite having wealth, the children came barefoot.*

Ken's latest history programmes "Lords, Monks & Bishops" and "A First for Uxbridge" are available to listen to on [www.uxbridgefm.co.uk](http://www.uxbridgefm.co.uk).

Personal recollections of times gone by are so fascinating- please keep them coming!! *Christine Bartlett.*



Dawley Court, Hillingdon c1890



The De Salis Family.



### **Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child**

At the end of August I shared with you via the online link that St John's will again be supporting this amazing charity.

The Covid -19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life for millions of people all around the world. Samaritans Purse have looked into ways in which they can modify their collection and processing, following strict government guidelines so that the process is safe and to ensure that boys and girls around the world know that they have not been forgotten during this time of fear and uncertainty.

This year it would be great to reach out and give a gift to as many children as we can. In preparation for this I have ordered plenty of boxes, so you no longer need to worry about wrapping up the boxes. I have also ordered plenty of the leaflets which explain how to pack your shoebox. If you would like to support this appeal please contact me via email on [stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com) or by phone on 07972 618584.

I am happy to drop and pick up boxes following government guidelines.

All completed boxes will need to be ready for collection by w/c 8th November at the latest.

You can also pack a shoebox online by giving a donation of £20 and Samaritans Purse will pack a shoebox for you, just click on this link for more information <https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/> *Nikki Bell*



## NOTICES

### AGM

Our **AGM** will take place during our morning service on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 10:30am**, via Zoom.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a chance for us to reflect on 2019 and elect our Church Wardens, PCC members and this year our Deanery Synod representatives.

The AGM usually takes place by the end of April. The Diocese issued a statement extending all PCC members, remaining in post until at least October 2020.

Bishop Sarah released further instructions recently that all churches must have completed the AGM by the end of October 2020, with instructions for how to conduct an AGM via Zoom and other platforms.

If you would like to stand for any of the positions, or would like to propose someone, please do email or phone Alan (07847672599) to find out more about what's involved and so that we can simplify the process and administration during these unusual times of the coronavirus, social distancing and not meeting in church. *The links below show the normal forms that are involved, although we are looking to simplify this process, so that proposers and seconders don't need to use the same form. Alternatively email or call Nikki for further details or if you have any questions.*

**Church Warden** Nomination Form [Click Here.](#)

**Deanery Synod** Nomination Form [Click Here.](#)

**PCC Member** Nomination Form [Click Here.](#)

### Cupola Update

As most people will be aware, the timber Cupola, which houses the Sanctus Bell, on top of the Church Tower, is in a very poor condition. Both our Church Architect and a structural engineer strongly recommended that temporary supports be urgently installed to stabilise the existing structure. Permanent repairs will need to be undertaken at a later date, as part of a comprehensive programme of external repairs to St. Johns.

The cost of the stabilisation work, which will include specialist investigations into the existing timber of the Cupola, will cost in the region of £30,000. We have now received confirmation from Heritage England that they have awarded us a grant of £24,000 towards the cost of the project. The remaining balance is being met by a generous donation from a member of St Johns.

Following confirmation of the grant last week, our Architect is currently in discussion with the selected contractor, structural engineer, and specialist timber conservation company to agree a realistic programme of work. Due to the delay in receipt of the confirmation of the Heritage England grant (we had hoped to hear by mid September), the proposed initial start date of 12<sup>th</sup> October is now unlikely to be met. Using this start date, we had hoped that the works would be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> November, to enable St John's to open for worship. St Johns has remained closed, following health and safety guidance from the Diocese. Until we have an agreed new programme we are unable to set a new opening target date for the church. This may be up to a month later than originally planned. I will keep you all advised on how things are progressing and Alan and I thank you all for your prayers and support through this difficult time. *Rick Williams (Churchwarden)*



**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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