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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 38 Sun 6th - Sat 12th December 2020
Registered Charity 1128058



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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>

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Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Work has started on the cupola at the top of the tower at St. John's!

We are very grateful to Historic England and the Government's Culture Recovery fund for the £23,782 towards the stabilisation and survey of the cupola. This is the start of our journey to repair and restore St. John's so it is fit for purpose and for our communities in the 21st century while still honouring our heritage. We continue to be #HereforCulture.

Culture creates jobs, supports livelihoods, and brings joy to everyone. The UK leads the world in the creative industries and we can all feel pride in that. Now, in these challenging times, it's our turn to show our support for culture. With an unprecedented investment through the £1.57bn Cultural Recovery Fund, the government is #HereForCulture so it can weather the storm of coronavirus and come back stronger. And we are #HereForCulture too. #HereForCulture is a movement that unites the public, government and cultural organisations in support of our fantastic cinemas, theatres, music venues, museums, galleries and heritage. We want people to make sure that when they are able to visit local culture venues again in their communities, they do so in a covid secure way. Plus, with more and more culture being curated online, there is no better time to support and enjoy all the new and exciting ways culture is available to us. By being #HereForCulture, we aren't just supporting the people in the industry, we're also supporting communities across the country.

Please [Click Here](#) for the Press Release.



It was wonderful to see so many from St. John's, and others, gathering around Hillingdon Village Green, and later in the Memorial Gardens, to say goodbye to Carol prior to the service at Breakspear. At the service and In memory of Carol, Grandsons Tom and Ethan shared a poem and a tribute so fluently and expertly on behalf of all the grandchildren as part of the tributes. They did so well. We continue to hold the family in our prayers and at this time of adjustment.

We are now into the season of Advent, the season immediately before Christmas which is observed as a time of preparation and penitence! It might surprise you to know that it is a season of penitence, as well as preparation, rather like Lent. It is also a time of preparation for the second coming of Christ.

In the secular world, the culture we live in today, Advent has rather been swallowed up into a season seen just as 'Christmas'. It has become a time of frenzied preparation devoted to Christmas shopping, office parties and the buying and sending of Christmas cards. A more recent development, which has increased even more so in this pandemic year, is spending hours and hours on the internet around 'Black Friday' scrolling down images of goods and trying to decide what items to buy online for Christmas presents, and seeing what 'bargains' may be had. Now we are becoming more aware that on 'Black Friday' many goods are more expensive than they were before the day! Rather dishonestly, retailers try to make more profit and to capitalise on the frenzy of the day.

An increasing 'norm' of our day is that shops and many homes are decorated well before Christmas and in town centres the Christmas lights are lit as early as November. We can see many homes that have incredible 'light shows' of Christmas decorations outside their homes, including on garages and outhouses. There are two amazing examples of this down Apple Tree Avenue, with many more examples of this increasing phenomenon around the parish.

For Christians, this Advent season is a time of preparation of rather a different nature. In name 'advent' comes from the Latin '*adventus*', meaning 'coming' or 'arrival', and so Advent is often said to be a time of waiting for the arrival of Christmas, the coming of Jesus to earth as a baby in Bethlehem. This leads to Advent being a penitential season: a time of self-assessment and for

confession. it is a time when people resolve to do better in the future; 'to put things right' for when Jesus comes' or, as it was once more formally expressed, 'to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world'.

It's always a good thing for Christians and for us as a Church to be aware of where the tide of culture is tending to take things and erode our faith, and when we need to 'draw a line' and stand out as different from the culture around us in the world. Especially at this time of the year, it is good to be aware of the increasing appetite for excess and the unwitting exploitation of people and the earth's resources. Where have you, or will you, 'draw a line' this Christmas in your shopping and behaviour, and stand out as being different, being salt and light?

Keep praying and discerning,

Alan

Prayers

Tunisia

Pray for church leaders who are looking for ways to stay connected with their congregations under Covid-19 restrictions. Pray for the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Morocco

Pray for believers who were isolated during Covid-19 lockdown. Pray that they will find fellowship and be connected to other believers who can encourage and support them.

Algeria

Praise God that people have continued to come to faith during the Covid-19 pandemic! Please pray that they will find other believers with whom they can enjoy fellowship.

For Richard, Becky, Vicky, Megan, Tom, Alice, Ethan, and family

Pray for Carol's family following the funeral on Tuesday. Pray for comfort, encouragement and help at this time of adjustment.

Prayer for the Nation

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly; pour out your blessing upon our nation; where there is illness, bring your healing touch; where there is fear, strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence; where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith; where there is dishonesty, lead us into truth; where there is discord, may we know the harmony of your love; this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



Second Sunday of Advent Sunday 6th December

Light a candle in your own home for Peace

For your special advent wreath [click here](#) and download.

You can then use this each week as we all light our wreaths together! Print the wreath out and add your own colour. Prizes for children who colour their own wreath. (If you can't print due to not having a printer, email us and we will send you one!) Instructions are included in the printout.

[Click here](#) for special relaxing Peace colouring!

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus.

Help us to grow in inner peace through knowing Christ, not just acknowledge Peace as a good idea.

Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by working for Christ's peace to take root in our hearts.

We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Acts 28: 30-31

30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!



Protecting our Trees.

This week I have included a newsletter from the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital NHS Hospital Trust. I receive their newsletter as I take part in some of their activities. They have a very good arts programme over both sites. They also have a project to plant 400 trees at Harefield, patients, staff and volunteers can get involved and become a Green Champion. The planting is supported by the Woodland Trust and funded by HS2.

In the newsletter they shared the importance of maintaining biodiversity and woodlands for (wild) life, not least as the current pandemic has shed some light on how humans are more exposed to diseases found in natural habitats though the process of land use changes, i.e. deforestation.

> 20 million hectares of tropical forests used for production is FSC certified, that's just 6%. And many NGOs worldwide are pushing for better standards to regulate the rapidly growing demand for products, such as biofuel, palm oil, and cheap wood. Indigenous Peoples make 5% of the worldwide population and safeguard 80% of the planet's biodiversity with sophisticated knowledge, which protects the environment and tackles climate change, and we have much to learn from them.

Keep the pressure on Consumer pressure is showing great results, with the RSPO certified area growing by 9% in 2019!

How can we keep the pressure on?

Check the label: The ethical consumer has a useful guide here to help recognise the palm oil and derivatives on labels, and you can download the Chester Zoo Sustainable Palm Oil toolkit.

Choose certified sustainable products where possible: Standards such as High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) are aiming to achieve zero deforestation, as well as protecting the income of farmers.

For timber, it's FSC. Ask the Trust to take part: For some, the lockdown was an opportunity to reflect on habits, and choose more environmentally friendly products.

The Green Plan is developed to ensure it applies in the workplace too! The supply chain (procurement) features as a workstream for the Trust Green Plan, so let the Trust know it's important to you.

Tree focus: Hazel. The hazel as a tree or coppiced provides essential shelter to English wildlife, allowing moths, butterflies, birds and small mammals to nest within its branches. Its nuts provide food for woodpeckers, nuthatches, tits, wood pigeons, jays and small mammals, and bees.

Christine Rodrigues.



My Memories

I was 4 years old and enjoying a holiday on the Isle of Wight. I loved the water but was uncertain about the wet sand; it wasn't quite like the gritty sand of our own sand on Stokes Bay beach. My sister of seven and very knowledgeable of course, explained that it was not gritty like our sand at home, but more like mud! (Not a very good advertisement for Sandown)

We were spending a week in Lake (I.O.W) with my father's cousins who were fortunate enough to "do" Bed and Breakfast in their house. It was just before the war started in 1939. Two boats trips – such joy. One paddle steamer from Portsmouth and one small ferry from Gosport but life gradually changed. I can recall how anxious everyone seemed – with good reason.

I began school at the end of that September. My sister attended St Mary's R.C school, so of course I followed. It was only five minutes rush away from our little bungalow; a short walk for my mother who would collect us twice a day. When the air raid warning wailed, and it did, it wailed loud and clear many times, but the St Mary's children were all rushed (in an orderly fashion) to the safety of the brick built building air raid shelter to stay sitting on wooden benches with hard with splintered slats.

The St Mary's children sat on the uncomfortable benches swinging their legs and chanting our "tables". "What were "tables"?" I would think, trying to connect the chanting with our table at home. I couldn't manage that, so of course I asked Marion, who you will know by now could answer everything. She replied " you HAVE to be word perfect" "Why and what is word perfect?" I wondered.

We all became very unruly when the all clear sounded but went out in an orderly fashion, to jump up and down in the queue for the toilet (reason for being unruly?)

We were rationed for food. I expect you have grandparents or even great grandparents who can recall the problems of feeding a family with the rations. Mothers would spend long hours waiting in queues, and then have to face going home without whatever they were hoping for because the shop was empty. They then went home to "make-do".

The mothers were marvellous at that. My pet hate was only 2oz of butter per person per week. I loved butter and do so to this day, even though the fat is bad for you. Then of course 4oz of sweets per week, one egg if you were lucky enough to find any, and then it was occasionally bad, no ice cream of any description and very little tea or sugar. So many things were unavailable because much came from abroad. The ships carrying them were often targeted and didn't make it home to England.

All the dads turned their flower gardens in to vegetable gardens. We had apple trees, so of course we spent autumn looking for blackberries in the hedgerows. Mother would bottle anything that could be bottled.

Clothes required clothing coupons, even children's clothes, so of course, when outgrown, they were handed down to other children, or adults clothes were used to make smaller garments. I can recall awful red check curtains being made into cotton dresses for the summer. They were supposed to be new!

When we were not subjected to so many air raids, my parents sent us to a Gospel Sunday

School. Perhaps they hoped it would balance the R.E. we had at St Mary's R.C. school during the week. Marion and I continued there until well into our teens. The staff were so pleased to welcome us, so good at story telling and getting "the message" across. So went every Sunday afternoon.

They were there for us all – outings (in trains) and sports days in country fields; tea parties and attendance prizes at Christmas time. Parents were invited to the prize giving with lots of choral singing.

Marion and I drifted towards the R.C church – I loved all of the dressing up. I then joined the Methodists because I wanted to join the badminton club! (how awful!) Eventually I found how comfortable I was in the Anglican Church and there I have stayed.

Marion and I went to the same commercial school so once again I inherited her outgrown uniform. I think she had inherited it from a friend or cousin. I even had the same teachers – not surprisingly.

When we were 18 years old, (so Marion had that privilege first) we were allowed to go dancing either on Friday or Saturday. We promised to come home on the coach provided. Dad would meet us at the drop spot. He was a good dad and never grumbled about going out in the cold to meet us.

I met my husband Leslie when I was 20 years old. Two years later we were married at St Mary's Alverstoke (not far from the beach with the gritty sand!)

Leslie was working in Hillingdon so we decided to live there. We went on to have two girls and a boy. Right up to the time that sadly Leslie died, I was happy at St John's church Southall, but the journey was fraught with accidents about to happen, so I decided to cross the road to St John's Hillingdon. A good decision. *Marigold Marsh*



The Cupola- a Local Landmark

The work being carried out on the cupola has set my mind wondering about it's history and how it's survived for at least 3 centuries.

We know that the tower was built in 1629 but we can't be certain that the cupola was part of that original structure or a later addition. However we know that in 1722 a lot of work to the church interior took place and a new bell was put in the "cupola" so we know it was in existence by then!

That bell didn't make it to its 100th birthday as the bell that is in place today is dated 1808 (and

interestingly bears the names of the churchwardens at that time Richard Whittington and John Shepherd).

In 1796 William Reid a carpenter was carrying out some repairs to the cupola and he very kindly left his signature up there as did P Riley a painter in 1865. And then from the church magazine of Autumn 1894 (thankyou Ken Pearce for this information):

“The Church Cupola: The appeal for the preservation of this distinctive mark of our church tower has been so well answered that we accepted Messrs. Fassnidge's estimate in order that the work might be finished before the winter gales. But, as in most cases, the expense exceeds our receipts so that we have a deficiency of £9 9s 4d. Donations to clear this off may be sent either to the vicar or churchwardens. We add the statement of accounts: Messrs. Fassnidge's estimate £74 10s, Architect's fee £2 2s, Total £76 12s” (equivalent to £9600 today). Then follows a list of 13 church members who contributed towards the costs and the amounts of their contributions ranging from £1 by Lady Cox to £21, 17s 8d by Mr Evans.

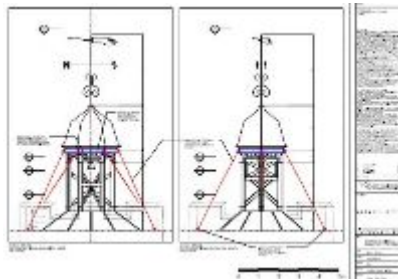
No doubt there have been many more repairs and maintenance work carried out over the centuries. The cupola is so exposed to the elements that it's a miracle it's still standing. The current stabilisation work is all part of it's story and I hope that this local landmark will carry on for a quite a few more years to come! *Christine Bartlett*



St. John's around 1740

Information about the stabilisation work to the cupola

The stabilisation work itself comprises fixing a timber collar around the top of the cupola and fixing this by way of six cables to the inside of the stone tower parapet. This is shown on the attached drawing or [click here](#) for the PDF drawing with more detail. *Rick Williams*.



The Hillingdon Foodbank face challenging times due to the coronavirus pandemic.

To help you understand, for this years Harvest festival 11 schools kindly donated although the foodbank usually experience help from 36+ schools.

The Foodbank is in need of:

Tinned Products only: Meat(all types), Fish, Vegetables, Fruit and Puddings.

Jars: Jam, Pasta Sauces, Curries and other sauces.

500g-1kg Bags of: Granulated Sugar, Pasta, Rice and noodles.

Packets of: Potato Mash, Biscuits, Christmas cakes, Sweets, Crisps, Heathy Bars and snacks.

Bottles/Cartons of: Long life Milk, Fruit Juice and squash.

Children's Toys Pre wrapped with a label stating what age and whether the gift is for a boy or a girl.

You can drop your donations to:

Participating local Supermarkets:

1. Sainsburys York Road Uxbridge UB8 1QW
2. Sainsburys Lombardy Retail Park Coldharbour Lane Hayes. UB3 3EX.
3. Sainsburys Long Dr, South Ruislip, Ruislip HA4 0HQ.
4. Tesco Bulls Bridge Industrial Estate Hayes UB25LN
5. Tesco Extra Glencoe Rd, Hayes UB4 9SQ
6. Waitrose 52 Green Ln, Northwood HA6 2XB

Current Participating Churches with donation boxes.

St Martin's Church Eastcote Rd, Ruislip HA4 8DG. Monday to Sunday 09-00 to 16-00 hrs

Or Alternatively

Delivery to Hillingdon Foodbank Warehouse

Foodbank Warehouse Address:

30 Oxford Road

UB9 4DQ.

Thank you from the Hillingdon Foodbank Team.



The Children's Society

Find out more about the Children's Society here: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/about-us>

Support the Children's society by visiting the Christmas card shop

here: <https://www.charitycardshop.com/thechildrenssociety>

St John's will again be supporting this fantastic charity this year watch this space to hear about our Christingle Services.

The Children's Society Home Coin Boxes.

Please 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, you will be contacted when we are able to collect your box. *Christine Bartlett*



Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who has once again supported this amazing charity St John's have now sent 29 shoeboxes which is amazing.

This is the last week to pack a shoebox as the national collection week has been extended to the 5th December the last day for collection is 14th December. This can be done 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

In Memory of Carol Turner - Tuesday 1st December

Carol Turner's funeral took place on Tuesday 1st December.

It was a beautiful sunny day about 40 friends lined Royal Lane at a Covid safe distance, as the cars stopped briefly to allow us to show support to Carol's family, and celebrate such a wonderful lady, before continuing on their journey. This was followed by lighting tealights and prayers led by Anne in the church Memorial Gardens.

View Online

You will be able to view a live webcast of the service from Tuesday 8th December until 10th December.

Use or click on this link: <https://www.obitus.com/>

Username: Godo6481 **Password:** 015584

Donations in Carol's memory to the Blood Cancer charity

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/turner-family1>

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.

The Bible Society

The Bible Society are collecting used postage stamps to raise funds. Please send stamps to Bible Society, Stamp Appeal, Post Room, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG – thank you!

Christine Bartlett

My Story.

Although this time during the pandemic is difficult, it does bring us some special opportunities. One opportunity is for you to write your story! We'd love to know something of your story and to present this as an opportunity for others to get to know you better too. Would you consider writing something that we could share with others via 'The online Link'? Obviously, you could write a lot, but don't worry, it needn't be long. The idea is to include how you came to be a part (or associated with) with St. John's Church and to include something about your faith story or your searching story. Thank you for considering this. If you would like some hints/tips to get started or would prefer to be interviewed please email or call Nikki.

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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