

[View this email in your browser](#)

## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 38 Sun 13th - Sat 19th December 2020  
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](#)

[Advent Prayer](#)

[Christmas Services via zoom](#)

[Reading](#)

[ECO News](#)

[Praying for the planet](#)

[St John's History](#)

[Cupola Update](#)

[Hillingdon Foodbank](#)

[The Children's Society](#)

[Notices](#)

### **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

### **Vicar: Alan Bradford**

Email [abradford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abradford@hotmail.co.uk)

Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599

### **St. John's Church,**

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

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



Christmas is approaching fast! This edition includes details of the Christmas services that will be online. Please do invite others to join in and let them know how to access the link to connect. I can't at the moment confirm details about the opening of St. John's and look to do that this coming Sunday on 'Zoom', and then confirm this in writing in next week's Online Link.

Although this has indeed been a hard year, one of the blessings for me has been to share in praying together on a Wednesday and Sunday when we have joined together for our weekly prayer time and Sunday services. It is encouraging that a number of us have also led prayers aloud, rather than it just being the person leading the service.

I want to encourage you to keep on praying, or to start regular praying once again or for the first time. God does answer prayer and prayer also changes our hearts to be more like God and to be working more for His purposes. Pray not only for those you know, but also for other countries, for others in our community, for God's people and for yourself, that you will be salt and light.

**"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."** Ephesians 6:18

Keep praying and discerning,  
Alan

### **Prayers**

#### **Eritrea**

Thank God that 27 Christians were released on bail in September. They had been in prison for between four and 16 years. Reports suggest the majority have been sent back to indefinite national service. Ask God to restore and sustain them.

#### **North Korea**

Pray for six South Korean Christians imprisoned in North Korea: Kim Jong-Wook, Kim Kook-Kie, Choi Chun-Kil, Ko Hyon-Chol, Kim Won-Ho and Ham Jin-Woo. Pray for the success of international efforts to negotiate between Pyongyang and Seoul so that they can return to their families soon.

#### **Prayer for the Nation - Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing**

In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country. We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work. We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together. I especially pray for . . . .



### **Third Sunday of Advent Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Light a candle in your own home for Joy.**

**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 Joy colouring!

**Prayer:** Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us.

Help us to grow into deeper joy through understanding what Joy really is, and through trusting in Christ to deepen us in inner joy.

Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by helping us see that Christ came for every person we meet wherever we go.

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



## Christmas Services (via Zoom)

**Carols for All** Sunday 13th December at 10:30am

**Journey to Christmas** Sunday 20th December at 10:30am

### Christmas Eve

**Christingles and Carols** at 4pm with a special collection for the Children's Society

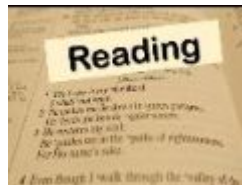
**Midnight Holy Communion** at 11:30pm.

### Christmas Day

**Christmas at Home** at 10:30am

There will be a national service open to all on Sunday 27th December, all are welcome to join information to follow. There will be no service taking place on zoom or in church on this day.

For the latest news and updates visit [www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk)



#### **Luke 2:1-20**

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)  
 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.  
 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.  
 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.  
 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.  
 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.  
 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."  
 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."  
 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.  
 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.  
 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



### **A Sustainable Christmas Tree**

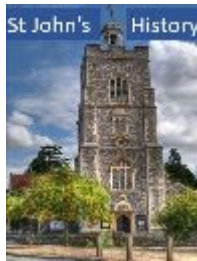
Up to 8 million Christmas trees are bought every December in the UK alone. That's a lot of intensive production, and potentially a lot of waste. It is not too late to look into sustainable options for your Christmas tree. You can check that your tree has been grown sustainably by looking for the FSC-certification logo. If you want one that's certified as organic and pesticide-free, get one that's approved by the Soil Association. Alternatively, there are options to rent a tree. Or buy one in a pot that you can use again next year. Royal Horticultural Society has a guide to care for your tree, year on year. If you have already bought your tree, try to recycle it so it can be used as mulch. Real Christmas trees are now available to purchase from the RAGC. There are a wide selection of cut, potted and rooted Christmas trees. Trees can be chosen, paid for and collected from the RAGC (15-minute collection slots are available) or you can have a tree delivered for free. Full details on pricing and further information is available on [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/christmastrees](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/christmastrees). Hillingdon council has again been granted 3,000 new trees as part of the Trees for Cities tree-planting project - a partnership between the council, Trees for Cities and for the first time Ecosia. This year's tree planting is dedicated to NHS key workers as a long-term tribute for their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are being planted in Colham Green, which is near Hillingdon Hospital, with 500 already planted this month. *Christine Rodrigues*.

### **Praying for the Planet**

It is good to remember our beautiful planet in prayer, meditation, awareness or involvement, with love, hope and gratitude.

We are about to witness an exciting planetary alignment when Jupiter and Saturn appear so close together in the sky that they seem to merge. It will be on the solstice, December 21<sup>st</sup>, so two important planetary events on the same day. They have not looked as close as this for nearly 800 years. Some believe that their alignment in 7BC was the star of Bethlehem followed by the magi at the time of Jesus' birth, and another name for this conjunction is the Star of Bethlehem or the Christmas Star.

To see them, look above the south-southwest horizon about 45 minutes after sunset. You can start looking now to see them moving closer, and then moving apart again after the 21<sup>st</sup>. Jupiter is the brighter of the two. *Jane Upchurch*



### The Building

St John's is built of flint with bath stone dressings and, like many old buildings, has been altered and enlarged over the centuries to meet the changing needs of the parish.

The earliest written reference to a church in Hillingdon is the grant by Brian Fitz Count, Lord of Colham Manor, of Hillingdon Church to Evesham Abbey shortly after 1100. Nothing remains of that building.

The earliest part of the present building is acknowledged to be the chancel arch, dated around 1270.

The western three bays of the nave and north and south aisles are dated mid 14th century, with the south aisle thought to be the earlier of the two aisles.

The tower was built in 1629 to replace a medieval one taken down in 1623 because it was "ruinous." It is embattled, of three stages, with a cupola containing a bell and topped by a weather vane. The cupola is made of oak and is supported on six octagonal columns. The tower contains a peal of ten bells.

By the 1840s it was agreed that the church was not large enough to accommodate the growing local population (in 1847, it could seat about 600 people) and Mr (later Sir) George Gilbert Scott, a young architect, was appointed to report and advise. His report, dated 22 October 1846, recommended pulling down the existing chancel and extending the church eastwards and adding north and south transepts.

The extension was built 1848-49 by Messrs. James Fassnidge of Uxbridge. The organ chamber was built alongside the south side of the chancel in 1887.

Major restoration was again undertaken in 1902. Dormer windows, removed in the 1848-9 rebuilding, were replaced in the roof of the nave and in the new part of the north aisle, and the chancel arch was raised in height by 4 feet 6 inches, thought to be more in keeping with the dimensions of the chancel. The gallery under the tower was removed in 1906 and tower repairs carried out in 1911 and again in 1981-6.

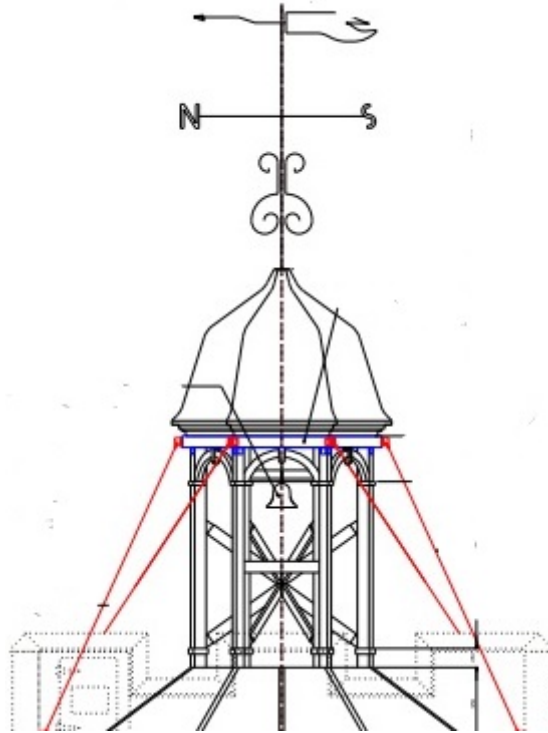
The east end of the north aisle was remodelled as a memorial chapel to the fallen of the First World War in 1922 and the war memorial was brought inside the church from its position on the outside of the north wall.

In 1964 the new vestry block, designed by Norman Haines, was built to the north east of the church.

The latest development came in 2012 when the coffee bar area was added in the South Aisle and the altar platform removed. *Christine Bartlett*

### Cupola Update

This week the cupola was inspected by our QI Alex Veal following the completion of the works. It has been signed off as a good and satisfactory job. The stabilisation work itself comprised of 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. Four of the cables are shown in red on the drawing below. The cables are very strong, the type that would be used for a crane. They are held in tension to support the cupola and will enable the stabilisation of the cupola for something like five years. This will enable a more permanent solution to be investigated over the next few years and a plan to be formed for a permanent solution following the reception of a detailed timber survey that was done while the scaffolding was up for the recent works. The opportunity was also taken at this time to repair the lightning conductor at the top and tighten the fixings that support the weather vane.



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/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 Address:  
30 Oxford Road. UB9 4DQ.



**The  
Children's  
Society**

**No child  
should feel  
alone**

### **The Children's Society**

St John's will again be supporting this fantastic charity this year during our **Christingle and Carols Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm via Zoom.**

You can **donate** online [click here](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate) or by typing into your web browser:

[https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate.](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate)

The page will give you an option to choose to give monthly or a one off payment, the one off payment allows you to choose from £10, £30, £50 or alternatively you can type in how much you would like to give.

This can be done at anytime.

You can also pay by **cheque** made payable to 'The Children's Society' and should be sent to:

Freepost RSYH-HEEE-XZEG

The Children's Society

50 Banner Street

London

EC1Y 8ST

### **Or by Phone**

contact the supporter care team on 0300 303 7000 where they will be able to take payment securely.

If you are having problems please call or email Nikki.

### **The Children's Society Home Coin Boxes.**

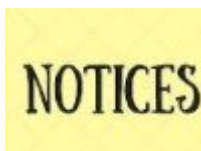
Please hang on to your collecting boxes for the time being. The Children's Society do not want us to be placed at unnecessary risk by handling boxes, counting coins and taking trips to the bank. If you are a box holder, you will be contacted when we are able to collect your box.

**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.



### **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.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT** about helping charities by sending them your used stamps. Look online for a list of those who participate. or see below message:

**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*

**CHURCHES, households, schools, and businesses in the UK** are being invited to take part in a new “bin-twinning” campaign to support [waste-collection projects](#) in Haiti, [Pakistan](#), and [Uganda](#).

It was launched this month by the Christian charity [Tearfund](#), which also founded the “toilet-twinning” campaign to improve sanitation in developing countries. Participants are being asked to donate £45 towards the projects, in exchange for a “bin twin” sticker for their bin.

“As Christians, we’re called to be good stewards of God’s creation; so reducing our waste footprint should be part of our response, especially as so much UK plastic ends up abroad. We hope twinning their bin and seeing the Bin Twinning sticker will help people become more mindful of how much waste they generate, as they support innovative start-ups tackling the waste crisis overseas.”

**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](#)

*Copyright © 2020 St. John's Church, All rights reserved.*

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

