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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 41 Thurs 24th December 2020 - Wed 6th January 2021
Registered Charity 1128058



*Alan, Anne & family wish you all a Happy
and Safe Christmas and a Healthy New
Year, with our love and prayers.*



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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>

Church Administrator: Nikki Bell

Email stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com

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Vicar: Alan Bradford

Email abradford@hotmail.co.uk

Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599

St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Click to give

Christmas Services



Christingle & Carols for Adults, Parent(s) & Children

[Click here](#) (or on the website) to sign up and get more info!
Click on image to join service.



Traditional 'Midnight' Carols and Communion

Enjoy some of your favourite Carols.
Click on image to join service.



Christmas Day at Home!

Join as you are, where you are, even if just for a short time. Toast everyone 'Happy Christmas'. Sing a favourite Carol, or two!
Show us a present or your tree!

Sunday 27th December No St. John's Service National Online Church of England Service

There will be a National Online Service open to all on **Sunday 27th December**, all are welcome to join via the Church of England website, YouTube channel or Facebook page. There will be **no** services taking place on zoom or in church on this day.



First Service in 2021 The Epiphany.

Sunday 3rd January, 10.30am
Click on image to join service.

No internet or computer?

3 easy steps to join in our services using your landline



*1 Dial **020 3481 5237** (or **020 3051 2874**)*

*2 Enter meeting ID Code **894 8145 2808** then the # key*

3 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, just press the # key.



Welcome to this two-week edition of The Online Link to cover Christmas and into the New Year.

We have most certainly had a hard 2020 and we look forward to better things in 2021. As we have discovered, and are discovering, it is during difficult times that God works in and through our lives too! I want to encourage you all to continue to be open to God and to His leading, and to keep being patient in prayer and in your serving. We are a people that are defined by our faith, not by fear or by becoming inward-looking.

I have had to learn more IT skills this past week as I was asked to do Christmas assemblies for Hillingdon Primary School. I was nervous as I filmed myself telling the Christmas story on the computer as I couldn't go into the school in person. I felt like I was stepping out and it made me feel uncomfortable which is usually how I feel when doing something new for God. It was so encouraging, however, to hear that the assembly had gone down really well and that all the year groups had watched it. They even 'tweeted' about the assembly!

As a family of faith let us continue to step out of our comfort zones as we seek to be salt and light for those around us. What is God saying to you at the moment? How is he wanting you to step out so that you can be a blessing to others, and, as a byproduct, grow further in faith as a disciple?

At the first Christmas, Father God took the initiative for us by sending Jesus. It was in a cold and dark stable that the Saviour of the world was born. The creator of all things was willing to be born in such a manner for us. The Creator was willing to have such an inauspicious beginning here on earth for the sake of those he had created!

Jesus was the perfect human being, showing us the way back to our Heavenly Father, and showing us the way of love. He then died on the cross for our sin and paid the debt for us so that we might come into a relationship with our Father, and have eternal life in heaven. This is all an act of incredible love as the Creator reaches out to those he has created.

This Christmas please join us to worship our incredible God who came to us as a child. We look forward to welcoming you and to sharing in worship and fellowship with you.

New Year Resolutions? Yes or No?

Do you make New Year resolutions? Whether you do or don't, there is a thought here for you!

This time of (near) lockdown presents us with a marvellous opportunity to prepare and grow so that we can, in turn, make a much bigger difference in the lives of others when we are more easily freed to be with others. I don't have new resolutions every year, as every year I want to continue to grow in my relationship with God. That of course includes growing spiritually through deepening my prayer life and by feeding more on scripture. I'm not sure if that means that I have 'new' resolutions each year or not!

Many of us have been given an extra gift of time. So let's all be intentional in growing in prayer and in our Bible reading. Through this, we will be further transformed and in turn be better at enabling the transformation of others. **The word 'transform' is the key** to what we are seeking to do with God here on earth, as given by our mission statement 'Loving, Growing, Sharing with Jesus **to transform** lives'.

Our new series on 'Pray' will help us to go deeper, but **don't wait until then to get on your knees and go deeper with God. Now is the time!**

May you make your resolutions (or non-resolutions) wisely!



As we get into January, and for part of February, the theme for our services will be 'Pray'. We are delighted that Archdeacon Catherine, our new Archdeacon, will be our guest for 'Pray' on Sunday 17th January at 10.30 am

Christmas Prayers

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world.

Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels.
Be with (Name names here) and all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations.
We pray for ourselves and (Name names here), and also for all those who are not able to celebrate Christmas with loved ones this year due to having to stay apart to stay safe.
Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts. **Amen.**



Christmas Day

Light a candle in your own home for Christ our Saviour

We lit the first candle to pray for love.

We lit the second candle to pray for joy.

We lit the third candle to pray for peace.

We lit the fourth candle to pray for hope.

Now we light the Christmas candle and we rejoice that Jesus is born. He is the love, joy, peace

and hope for all the world.

A Saviour is born to us today. Alleluia!

Lord Jesus Christ, you bring the life of God into the world.

Fill us with your light, now and always. Amen.



Reading for Midnight Holy Communion

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reading for Sunday 3rd January 2021

Matthew 2:1-12

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



Christmas recycling in Hillingdon

Throughout Christmas and New Year, most households generate more waste – much of which can be recycled or reused in order to protect the environment. Here's what you can do with your festive waste.

Dry recycling You can recycle cards, wrapping paper, books, magazines and catalogues, cardboard, paper, tin cans, glass bottles, jars, cartons, plastic bags, trays and bottles. However, glitter and foil cannot be recycled and will contaminate materials during the recycling process. If something has glitter or foil on it, put it in your general household black waste bag.

Food Waste Before you throw away your leftovers, why not try out a new recipe to create a new dish or freeze it to have another time? Food waste can be recycled using your free kitchen caddy provided by the council. Line the kitchen caddy with bio-degradable bags or newspaper, which will help keep it clean and stop the food freezing to the inside of the caddy during the cold winter months.

Christmas trees You can recycle trees with your usual garden waste collections in January. The tree should be placed at the edge of the property boundary and visible for the crews. If you live in a flat, call the council on 01895 556000 to request collection from Monday 4 January. Trees should be placed next to your bin store or collection point for waste bins, without blocking access to the bins. All decorations and pots must be removed and trees taller than six foot should be cut in half. Artificial trees should be taken to Harefield Civic Amenity Site or West Drayton waste weekends, or a pick-up arranged via the council's bulky waste collection service.

Spending time outdoors

We have all had a difficult and unsettling year, spending more time at home, having to use our nearby open spaces to meet people and for exercise. The new situation has enabled some of us to explore where we live. The weather helped at the start and until recently has been fairly dry and sunny. Now it is colder and we are still having to restrict our lives, following the rules. The outdoors has become very important for our health and well being. The importance of being outdoors, particularly among trees, in woods or a forest, has been shown through research to help reduce our blood pressure, lower cortisol levels, improve concentration and memory. As little as 5 minutes spent in nature is said to improve mood and self-esteem and a walk in nature boosts creativity, problem-solving and feelings of wellbeing. So wrap up warm and find a green space to enjoy time in while improving your health. *Christine Rodrigues.*



Caroline Reed and I have recently had the very great privilege of reading and typing up a diary of the second war written by Daisy Buckingham who was Margaret Buckingham's aunt.

There are some remarkable insights into what life was like in wartime Hillingdon, and I thought that our readers might be interested in a few Christmas snippets.

December 24th 1940 Got 2 lemons and pound of dates from greengrocers. Sweet shops empty. Jenkins all empty shelves and windows. Elite filled up their sweet shelves with books but I got ¼ lb allsorts from little shop opposite school. Still getting Christmas cards sent me, although postage is 1d unsealed and some cards have purchase tax on. We have a postwoman this Christmas. A little girl brings our newspapers now.

Boxing Day 1940 went to firemen's party, won a bottle of lavender water for 'making-up' A.

Finch's face blindfold. There was a lull in aerial activity over Christmas but on 29th Dec an attempt was made to burn London to the ground. Firemen came from Notts and Leicester to help. 'Pioneers' helped to clear debris. R.E.'s blew up unsafe and burnt out buildings with charges of gun-cotton. Mr Herbert Morris arranged conscription of fire-watchers where considered necessary.

December 28th 1941 Been paper-hunting again today, turning out old letters, programmes, receipts etc for salvage. Mr Churchill is in America. Benghazi was entered by our troops on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day went to 7 o'clock service. It was a service in the dark as there were no lights except in the Lady Chapel owing to the poor blackouts. In the afternoon the King spoke on the wireless. Quiet Christmas but peaceful and plenty to eat even if it is war-time. Boxing Day we had 'Tang' for breakfast, the first American meat. We have tried with our 'points' book.

December 27th 1942 Well we have had a good Christmas, better than we expected. If things have been hard to get some sort of present has been given and received, cards have been up to normal, I had 33, and 3 letters. People who left buying to the last found the shops sold out, I couldn't even get a pencil at the paper shop Christmas Eve. We had 4 new laid eggs from Mrs Vera Miles for breakfast Christmas Day, porridge made with rolled oats (we can get them now they are on points). For dinner beef, new potatoes, brussels, Xmas Pudding and custard, and cider. On Boxing Day we had Turkey (out of a tin 20 points). The bells rang for 11 o/c service Christmas morning but we never heard them. There were 83 at 7 o/c 112 at 8 o/c 30 at 9.30 and don't know how many at twelve. Geoff (*Daisy's brother*) and I went right to the end of Charville Lane Xmas afternoon. Boxing Day went to Savoy, Hayes saw Rose of Tralee and Wings for the Eagle. Afterwards went to 20's party. Today have been afternoon service and carols. John and some more boys have been carol singing for Red X. They have got over £5. Have got socks again from Mrs Miles. *Christine Bartlett*



**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>.

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.

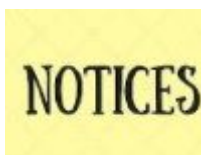
The Children's Society Home Coin Boxes.

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.

**The Online Link**

The next Online Link will be sent out and available from 7th January 2021.

Gift

Chris and Lorraine Turner who worshipped at St John's and have since gone on to become vicars, have given us an Oxfam gift card of hope for a refugee. This charity gift card provides support for those facing conflict or disaster.

It can provide emergency food and clean safe water during a crisis. It can give shelter and warmth for those forced to flee their homes and pushed into poverty it gives support, protection and the chance of a new start. I am sure that you will join with us in saying thank you to Chris and Lorraine.

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.”

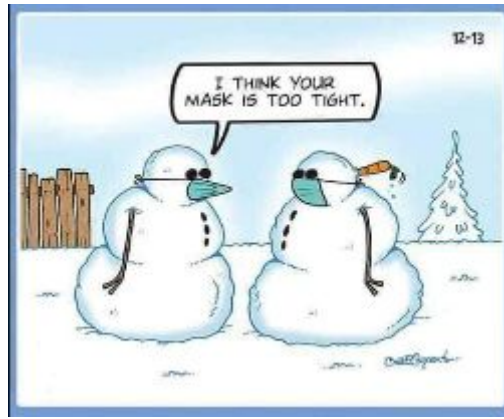
 **Wednesday Morning
Get Togethers and Prayer** 

We meet on at 10am
using our usual Zoom link

Wed 23rd Last meeting of 2020

Wed 30th Dec **No Get together**

Wed 6th Jan First get together of 2021



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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