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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 38 Sun 10th - Sat 16th January 2021
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Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):

Click on the church 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

Email abradford@hotmail.co.uk

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St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Anne's Blog

20 + C + M + B + 21

Have you seen the letters 'C+M+B' with numbers either side of it above any doors?

You might have seen 20+C+M+B+20 above the Meeting Room door in church last year, or

20+C+M+B+19 the year before.

Some people stick or chalk this number and letter combination above their doors at Epiphany, early in the new year, and keep it up for the whole year.

The numbers are for the year, so now we are in 2021, the numbers for this year are **20** and **21**.

At Epiphany, we remember The Wise Men visiting Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Their names are thought to be Casper, Melchior and Balthazar. The letters **C**, **M**, and **B** are their initials, but also stand for '*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*' which means '**Christ Bless this House**'.

We put this above our doors as a prayer, so that when we see it, we remember to pray. Our prayer is to ask God to bless this room or our home, to bless our goings out and our comings in, and to bless on our conversations in this place. It is also asking God to bless others through us as we go out from our home or as we welcome them in to our home.

Well this year has already started with more restrictions thanks to coronavirus! Our going out is limited and we are restricted on others visiting us. But this can still be our prayer. We can pray for God to bless and protect us when we have to go out for essentials. We can pray for God to bless and protect those who deliver food or bring essentials to our door for us. We can have this over the doors to the rooms in our home, and we can pray for God to bless us in our home and to give us his peace in each room.

More than most other years, I think this number and letter combination will help remind us that Christ is with each of us in our homes, in all that we are going through individually and that he is also with us as a nation and globally.

Our prayer for you is that God will bless you and that the peace of Christ will fill your home.

So join us this year with **20+C+M+B+21**.

Anne



**Prayers aren't empty words hurled at the sky.
They're conversations - in fact, they're the most important conversations of our lives.
Our Sunday Teaching Series**

10th Jan Pray SO THAT that the eyes of your heart might be enlightened

17th Jan Pray SO THAT God's Kingdom Comes

24th Jan Pray SO THAT you may be strengthened with power

31st Jan Pray SO THAT you have unity

7th Feb Pray SO THAT you have discernment

14th Feb Pray SO THAT you may share your faith

It is suggested that you use a notebook as a prayer journal and for making notes on the teaching.

We look forward to welcoming Archdeacon Catherine, our new Archdeacon, as our guest for 'Pray' on Sunday 17th January at 10.30 am

Prayers about the Outbreak

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. **Amen.**

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for North Korea

North Korea is the most dangerous country in which to be a Christian. Yet there are approximately 300,000 Christians here, courageously following Jesus in secret. Praise God that the North Korean church is not only surviving under the most extreme persecution, but growing!

North Koreans are expected to show unwavering loyalty to their leader, Kim Jong-Un. Christians are seen as enemies of the state for believing Jesus is a higher authority than the Kim family. An Open Doors worker (Open Doors is a mission/charity supporting persecuted Christians worldwide) says, "I dream that the personality cult will fall. Please pray that the idolatry of North Korea that crushes human rights and persecutes Jesus' followers will be demolished and that those in pain will soon be restored with the gospel of Jesus."



Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.



Moving forward.

We have made progress at St Johns to improve awareness of our actions on the planet to make changes.

The effects of climate change have definitely been felt this year, it is a major issue for us all and for the way that we live our lives. wherever we may live in the world. Make a pledge in 2021 to continue to make changes and find ways to adapt and be an influence to others in caring for creation.

Let's start this year with the prayer from the Bishop of London.

*Creator of our common home,
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life
Forgive us our neglect of your creation
The choking waste of our pollution
The damage done by careless habits
And our indifference to future generations.
Help us to amend our lives
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it
To lift our voice for lasting change
And to live well and gently on the earth
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word
Through whom you made this fragile world.
Amen.*

The **RSPB** Big Garden Birdwatch will take place on **29-31 January**

Spend some time counting the birds. This can be in your garden, outside space or park.

Details can be found on the RSPB website

www.rspb.org.uk

The survey has helped to identify the decline and the recovery of our favourite bird species. *Christine Rodrigues.*

Praying for the Planet

Let's remember our beautiful planet in prayer, meditation, awareness or involvement, with love, hope and gratitude.

We are in a new year but it doesn't feel new yet. This is winter when much of the natural world is resting and when coronaviruses, old and new, flourish. We are restricted in what we can do, and many of us have loved ones who are ill or who have died. What can we hold on to at a time like this?

For some of us the answer is knowing that the light of Spirit is with us even in the darkest times. But for all of us, we can still find uplift, calm and refreshment from our planet, from the natural world around us.

A harbour of peace

It rained all day yesterday and now it is soggy, sitting quietly absorbing and feeling the wetness, letting it ooze and lie, and a little get teased out by the shallow sun. The hawthorn tree is adorned with jewels of raindrops again, like semilustrous pearls. I can hear the slow rumble of a distant plane, I am sitting still while planet and time and planes move under me and beyond me.

If you listen to the damp quietness you can hear it drip, you can feel it filling the air. The remnant oak leaves are plastered darkly to the ground and have taken up residence as constituents of earth. The faithful grass keeps pace with the seasons, holding the rain and the scattered leaves like a sponge. The sky glistens. It is mother of pearl grey shining with light near the white orb of the sheltered sun.

This day is here holding stillness and breath and being and we can stride through its waters or soak in its stream. It is always here, holding its own presence, filled with the touch of God, for us to anchor our days. It is a good listener and it can take the fret and fuss of the fullness of our lives

and exchange it for a harbour of peace.

Jane Upchurch



New for 2021! A Tour around the Church Monuments.

Happy New Year! For the next few months, I plan to base my local history articles on the people who have memorials inside St. John's Church. The articles will vary in length depending on how much information I have to hand. Sadly the local studies room in Uxbridge Library is still closed due to COVID restrictions, so I am limited in my ability to research as thoroughly as I would like. However I will do my best to provide you with what I can. Here goes!

As you enter St. John's by the main west door, the first monument you come to on the left is that of Sir William Saltonstall Wiseman and his wife Elizabeth. It's high up on the wall but lower down you will see another stone, that marks the entrance to the wiseman vault.

Sir William was born 5th March 1784; and died 1st July 1845 at Hillingdon End, Uxbridge. He entered the Navy on 30th July 1797, (aged 13!) on board the warrior 74, employed in the North Sea and Mediterranean. It would appear that he had a successful Career in the Royal Navy and by 1811 he was promoted to the rank of commander. The Royal Navy at that time was busy taking control of key locations to open new markets for the British economy. Sir William was instrumental in the capture of Maldonado at the mouth of the River Plate near Buenos Aires.

He married his first wife, Catherine in Baghdad in 1812. She died in 1822 and he married his second wife Elizabeth, who was the daughter of the Vicar of Cranfield, in 1827.

In his will he left all his property to his wife apart from his telescopes and Turkish sabre which he bequeathed to his son James. *Christine Bartlett*



William Saltonstall Wiseman Monument



Wiseman Vault



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.

You can drop your donations to:

Participating local Supermarkets:

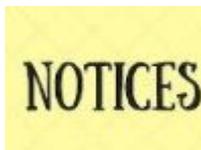
1. Sainsburys York Road Uxbridge UB8 1QW
2. Sainsburys Lombardy Retail Park Coldharbour Lane Hayes. UB3 3EX.
3. Sainsburys Long Dr, South Ruislip, Ruislip HA4 0HQ.
4. Tesco Bulls Bridge Industrial Estate Hayes UB25LN
5. Tesco Extra Glencoe Rd, Hayes UB4 9SQ
6. Waitrose 52 Green Ln, Northwood HA6 2XB

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.



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 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.

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

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