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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 46 Sun 7th - Sat 13th February 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



No. 1 on both sides of the Atlantic! How Great He is!

One of the things I used to look forward to when I was younger was listening to the Top 20 on the radio every Sunday afternoon. Then I discovered that they actually released the top of the charts list on a Tuesday lunchtime. I was so keen on hearing this each week that I used to sneak

into our History teacher's classroom to switch on a radio which was in his room, even though we were all not allowed to be inside at lunchtime. On one occasion I was sneaking into the room and he was actually there this time, and not in the staff room, and even had the radio on to the right channel himself! I didn't get too far crawling into the classroom before I knocked a chair and he heard me. I was in big trouble!

Then I wasn't a Christian and later when I committed my life to God at Uni I started to love hymns and worship songs (as well as the pop and rock!). In the list of most popular hymns is one of the greatest hymns we sing, 'How Great Thou Art', which you may know as 'O Lord My God'. This was the number one hymn on both sides of the Atlantic in 1950's! It is, of course, still very popular today and one of our favourite hymns here at St. John's.

The formation of this hymn started in 1885 when a 26-year-old preacher, called Boberg, wrote a poem entitled in Swedish 'O Store Gud'. Translated it into English, it's 'O Great God'. Boberg had no thought of his poem becoming a hymn, so a few years later he was surprised to hear his poem sung to the tune of an old Swedish melody.

A generation later, in the early 1920s, English missionaries Stuart Hine and his wife were ministering in Poland, where they learned The Russian version of Boberg's poem sung to the Swedish melody. Later, Hine created English words for it and arranged the Swedish melody to fit. This is the hymn we now know as 'How Great Thou Art'.

The first three stanzas (see below) were inspired by an experience Stuart Hine had as he ministered in the Carpathian mountains and heard the mighty thunder echoing all around him. As he pushed on, he was deeply impressed by the beauty of the woods and forest glades as well as the singing of the birds. The fourth stanza was written after he returned to England.

The song became popular in America in the 1950s, and before long it was the number one hymn on both sides of the Atlantic.

This is a great hymn to help you with some words of praise, which you can use and expand upon during your prayer times. We shall also be worshipping with this hymn as part of our songs/hymns this Sunday.

The words are below for you to use in prayer and/or you can click on the link below to sing along and worship from your heart:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHqqQjJrxl8>

**O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

***Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!***

**When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.**

**And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;**

That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

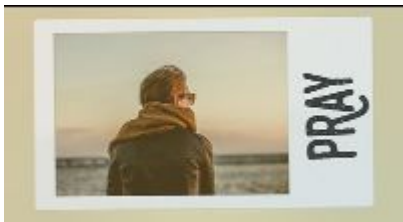
Keep praying aloud. Keep praying in your head. Keep praying in song.

Keep praying!

In God's love,
Alan



Loving, Growing, Sharing with Jesus to Transform Lives



Listen to Carol's talk

To listen to the talk from last Sunday
on 'Pray SO THAT you have unity'
[click here.](#)

Our Sunday 'P R A Y' Teaching Series

7th Feb Pray SO THAT you have discernment

14th Feb Pray SO THAT you have a full understanding
of every good thing we have in Christ.

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



Philippians 1:9-10

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

Ephesians 1:15-19

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



An exercise in tree hugging!

From thought for the day on Radio 4 A speaker on Thought for the Day on Radio 4 was Martin Wroe, a writer and journalist. He talked about the benefits of trees. Being with Trees had been a topic on the breakfast programme with Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield. It was recommended and given like a prescription to help people with lockdown loneliness to hug a tree. Greeting a tree, giving a tree a hug can be reassuring. Prince Charles said that he talked and listened to his trees back in the 80s and it is now proven that plants respond by Forest ecologists such as Prof Suzanne Simard. Trees connect with each other and communicate. They absorb carbon dioxide emissions and sustain ecosystems. Some botanists think that we should view nature as we would a relative and not as a resource to plunder. When on a walk during lockdown we may have noticed the sounds of nature around us. Take a moment to greet a tree, touch a branch, feel the bark and perhaps give one a hug.

Isaiah 55:12

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Christine Rodrigues.

Praying for the Planet

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

What can we be doing at this time? For those of us stuck at home, we can still love. For those busy looking after our needs at this challenging time, we can still love. For all of us who care for the planet and want things to change, we can still love. Love is a powerful force. Some of us will be active working on behalf of the environment. Some of us will pray. But we can all love.

We can walk through the woods, and greet the trees and the sunshine and the snow with love. We can greet the cold, dark, wet days with love. We can send love to the countryside as we see it on television or read about it in books. And this will harness the strength of love for our own lives as well as for our outside world.

For 30 days, two plants, kept in identical conditions with the same amount of light, water and fertilizer, were displayed at a school in Dubai.

Children were encouraged to record both negative and positive comments including playground taunts.

The verbal bullying and the sweet nothings were then dished out regularly to the plants using a computerised voice.

At the end of the month, the plant that had been on the receiving end of the negativity appeared visibly different, with drooping and dying leaves.

Meanwhile, the plant that had been told nice things had thrived with a YouTube video showing a

clear difference between the two flowers. *Jane Upchurch*



A Tour around the Church Monuments.

Monument to Thomas Harbie

High up on the wall in the Prayer Chapel is a solid, sizeable monument to Thomas Harbie. Thomas Harbie died in 1592 but the memorial, paid for by his sons, wasn't erected until 1623. Interestingly, this is the same year that the tower, being in a very poor state, was examined and found to be beyond repair. When the new tower was completed in 1629, the Harbie Coat of Arms was added right at the top. (see photo below). Was this because Thomas's sons made a significant contribution towards the cost in their father's memory? Unfortunately the facts don't seem to have been recorded so we'll never know, it's just a matter for idle speculation! Whatever the reason, I think it is safe to assume that in his day, Thomas Harbie was probably the richest or most important or most influential man in the parish. He was born in Adston, Northamptonshire in 1528 but I haven't been able to find out much more about his life other than he lived at the Rectory House which stood where Bishopshalt School is now. The Rectory House was owned by the Bishops of Worcester and Thomas Harbie was their tenant.

Also remembered on the monument are his three wives. Alice, Margaret and Katharine, his 6 sons: Richard, Fran, Clement, Job, Erasmus and Edward and five daughters: Katharine, Susan, Ann, Marie and Emma.

The history of the Bishopshalt School site has a fascinating history. I highly recommend that you listen to Ken Pearce telling the story in 3 parts on the Uxbridge FM website.

Christine Bartlett



Thomas Harbie Monument.



The Tower showing the Harbie Coat of Arms



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:

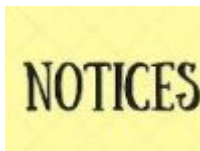
1. Sainsburys York Road Uxbridge UB8 1QW
2. Sainsburys Lombardy Retail Park Coldharbour Lane Hayes. UB3 3EX.
3. Sainsburys Long Dr, South Ruislip, Ruislip HA4 0HQ.
4. Tesco Bulls Bridge Industrial Estate Hayes UB25LN
5. Tesco Extra Glencoe Rd, Hayes UB4 9SQ
6. Waitrose 52 Green Ln, Northwood HA6 2XB

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 National Gallery. Online activities for all the family

The National Gallery is offering lots of fantastic online activities for families to enjoy over the February half term. Please visit: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/events/families> for more information and to book.

Easter Flower Project 

Are you able to knit, crochet or sew a flower?

We are going to hang individual handmade flowers in the church garden and along the hedges around Easter time. We will be attaching a message to each of them, so that they will be a random act of kindness and encouragement for people to take one, and as an event in our local community.

If you are able to join in knitting, crocheting or sewing flowers for this, please let Anne know.
Thank you.

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.



NHS COVID Vaccine Scam

Several reports have been circulating of people being contacted by fraudsters offering the COVID-19 vaccine. Please [click here](#) for more information.

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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