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The Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 82 Sun 21st November - Sat 4th December 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

Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599

St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



This last week has seen two things dominate the headlines – firstly the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, with all its hopes that nations would unite to find ways of preventing climate change, and secondly remembering those who have died in wars – with Armistice Day on November 11th and

Sunday 14th as Remembrance Sunday. As we do every year, we watched the Festival of Remembrance from the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday evening – marking the centenary of the Royal British Legion.. The most poignant moment for me is always the moment of silence when the poppy petals are released into the main arena and land on those standing below – each petal representing a life lost in war. At our outdoor service on Sunday morning Alan told the story of how the two minutes silent began – at the suggestion of Sir (James) Percy Fitzpatrick. Sir Percy, a South African, lost his son in 1917 during the First World War, at the age of 28. He planted trees on his land in memory of his son (also called Percy) and subsequently wrote to the King suggested a two minutes silence be held on Armistice day. The King agreed and we have held that two minutes silence to remember those who died fighting for their country since November 1919.

Over the last few weeks we have had cause to drive along the M40 towards Oxford on a couple of occasions – firstly to meet up for lunch with some friends who were staying in the Cotswolds, and secondly to attend the Christening of our newest great nephew. On both occasions as we drove along we could see how wonderful the trees looked in all their different colours – yellows, golds, russets, browns and greens. Trees do not only look wonderful throughout the year, but they are also invaluable in helping stop climate change. Trees not only absorb and store harmful carbon (greenhouse gases), but also prevent flooding, reduce the temperature in cities and keep soils rich in nutrients. Apparently only 13% of UK land is covered by trees so we need to plant many more. So with this in mind, I looked up planting a tree to help offset my carbon footprint. When my father died some years ago I planted a tree through the Woodland Trust, and dedicated it to him, but had failed to do anything when my mother subsequently died. I was delighted to discover that the National Trust is currently running a programme to enable saplings to be planted on their land (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/plant-a-tree>). By going on their website you can pay as little as £5 for one sapling; furthermore you can dedicate your sapling(s) to anyone you choose.. So during the last week I have been able to pay for five saplings to be planted, dedicate them to my mother, and receive a certificate from the National Trust saying they were planted in her name. If we really want to try and stem climate change then planting one of the beautiful trees God has given to us seems like a wonderful way to bring help bring this about.

*Thank you Loving Father for this beautiful world you have given us to live in. Help us to take care of it, to nurture it and to live responsibly. Help us to make the right choices about what we buy and what we eat so that we don't deplete our natural resources. Help us to remember that you created other species to live alongside us in harmony. Thank you for the gift of trees in all their beauty – let us never take for granted all that you have provided out of your love for us. **AMEN***

Carol Williams



**Sunday 21st November.
Jeremiah's Temple Sermon
Jeremiah 1: 4-10 & 7:1-11**

4 The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." 6 "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

7 But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. 9 Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth.

10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and

overthrow, to build and to plant.”

7 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 “Stand at the gate of the Lord’s house and there proclaim this message: “ ‘Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord.

3 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. 4 Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!” 5 If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly,

6 if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, 7 then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. 8 But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

9 “ ‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things?

11 Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the Lord.

Sunday 28th November.

Faith as a way of life

Habakkuk1:1-7, 2:1-4, 3:2b-6 & 17-19

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received. 2 How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save? 3 Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.

4 Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted. 5 “Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.

6 I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own. 7 They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honour.

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. 2 Then the Lord replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. 4 “See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright— but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness —

3 God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth. 4 His splendour was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden. 5 Plague went before him; pestilence followed his steps.

6 He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble. The ancient mountains crumbled and the age-old hills collapsed— but he marches on forever.

17 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.



How to save energy through shopping

With the hike in energy prices this year it's a good time to think about how the products we buy could save us energy at home.

How much energy will it use? If you are buying white goods, whether it's a fridge or a kettle, ask the shop assistant which is the most energy efficient appliance in stock - AAA* ratings are a great indicator.

We all know that when buying a car there are big differences in energy efficiency, but did you know how much? For example, the latest hybrid cars achieve 80 miles to the gallon, whereas the early models only achieved about 50. Another example is electric vehicles, which typically cost 5p per mile to run, compared to over 20p per mile for petrol vehicles.

The mighty electric blanket Could the electric blanket be our biggest weapon against the fuel crisis? You can now get electric throws to cover your lap at your desk or on the sofa. At 1p an hour to run, they are typically 50 times cheaper than an electric room heater and 200 times cheaper than your central heating. A bonus with this is that leaving the room cooler keeps you more alert but you're still warm and comfortable, very helpful while working.

How do you get there? When you can, share the trip. Going shopping with friends can be fun and reduces the number of cars on the road. Better still, take the bus or train when it's a convenient journey. You can save a lot on parking.

How can we minimise manufacturing? Make, mend, buy hand-made or second-hand. Homemade gifts touch people's hearts and mending something can touch your own heart. The Japanese tradition of wabi sabi puts higher value on a mended item than a new one because it's unique. A locally made mug can enrich the experience of drinking tea. Buying second-hand is the best because it avoids manufacturing entirely. Britain has one of the best second-hand markets in the world, and you can buy a much higher quality product for the same price when you buy it second-hand.



Soft Plastic Packaging at local supermarkets.

You can now recycle soft plastics at many supermarkets. Check websites and in store.

Some may only take their own branded packets.

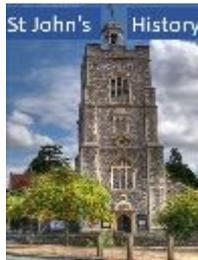
Items accepted include the following the list is more extensive online:

- Thin plastic lids of all types
- Kitchen towel, toilet roll, nappy bag, cotton wool wrappers
- Pouches – microwave rice, pre-cooked mussels, petfood, etc
- Fruit & veg nets, bags and wrappers
- Plastic sauce sachets Bags
- Ordinary carrier bags ● Bread bags

- Crisps, nuts, snacks bags
- Bags from: Cereal and porridge, Dried goods – dried fruit, pasta, rice, sugar, pulses, Frozen foods and ice cubes etc.

Ways to save the planet Switch to - 100% green power

Still haven't switched to a green energy provider? Then now's the time! Throughout the world, the use of energy represents by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity. Around two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to burning fossil fuels for energy to be used for heating, electricity, transport and industry. And in Europe too, energy production and use, including the energy used in transport, accounts for some 80 percent of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. Switching to renewables has a multiple positive impacts: by converting to green electricity you support the phase-out of coal, do your bit to accelerate the move to renewable sources and directly reduce CO2 emissions. **Chris Rodrigues**



Sarah Frances Ford

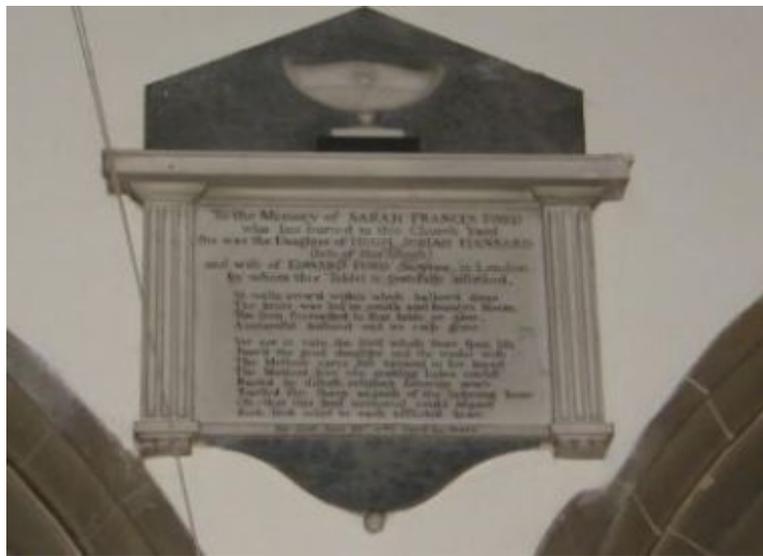
The memorial to Sarah Frances Ford is high up in the central aisle at St John's but is difficult to read from the pews unless you have extremely good eyesight or a pair of binoculars!

The death of Sarah Frances Ford at age 24 when she had been married for only 7 years must have been tragic for her husband and 2 children that she left behind. Sarah and her husband Edward were married at St John's in 1776 The poem on her memorial plaque sums it all up:

*ye walls revered within whose hallowed dome,
the bride was led in youth and beauty's bloom,
too soon succeeded to that bride ye gave
a mournful husband and an early grave.
Yet not in vain she lived whose short spun life
Prov'd the good daughter and the tender wife
The mother's cares just opening in her breast
The mothers love two prattling babes confest
Racked by disease religion's sovereign power
Soothed the sharp anguish of the lingering hour
Oh that this frail memorial could impart,
Such blest relief to each afflicted heart.*

Sarah's husband Edward Ford was an accomplished surgeon at the Westminster General Dispensary. However as anesthesia hadn't yet been invented and surgery was only performed as a last ditch attempt to save life, I think perhaps we would do well not to think about this too much! According to Wikipedia, Edward married again but I have been unable to find out any details.

Christine Bartlett



Sarah Frances Ford Memorial.



Pray for the family and friends of our beloved Iris Culcheth. The Funeral will be held at St John's on Wednesday 24th November at 2pm



CAROLS FOR ALL

Sunday 12th December 4pm
St. John's Church
 Royal Lane Hillingdon UB8 3QP

Journey to Christmas
10:30am
Sunday 19th December

Hear the Voices of Christmas tell their part in the Nativity. Join in with the carol singing. An informal service with Holy Communion.

Children & parents, you are invited to . . .

Christingle & Carols

Christmas Eve 3.30pm or 5.30pm

Friday 24th Dec
 come as you are or with prop/costume

St. John's Church
 Royal Lane
 Hillingdon UB8 3QP

Christmas Eve
Candlelight 'Midnight'
Holy Communion

Friday 24th December
 11:30pm at St. John's Church
 Royal Lane Hillingdon UB8 3QP



NOTICES



Parkfield House News

Caroline and Brenda visited Parkfield House Nursing Home last week to conduct a special Remembrance Service for all of the residents.

During the visit they chatted with some of the residents in particular a gentleman by the name of Douglas Ramsay who is very keen poet. With the permission of Douglas Caroline wanted to share the poem with you.



Remembrance Day Poem

From yipers and Somme,
The bodies appear,
Metal helmets cover the skull and crossbones hanging out to dry,
We go into the daily press,
And don't give one thought over,
The remembrance of 2 million young men,
Those of gave their lives for us,
White spirits glow over the six foot of mud in the trenches,
Which does not linger over footprints,
In the eyes of the men wayward thoughts,
Sway in the wind,
The multi spirits collect dreams,
For one weary folk,
Not a shameful soul left,
For each soul is counted for restitution.

By Douglas R (resident of Parkfield House)



To download the latest edition (Nov/Dec) of the Hillingdon People magazine please [Click Here](#)

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.

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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