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The Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 83 Sun 5th - Sat 18th December 2021
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Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):

Click on the church image above to join our
10:30am service on zoom from Sunday
10am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808>

Church Administrator: Nikki Bell

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Vicar: Alan Bradford

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St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP
www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



On Friday evening, as I was driving along, I saw many houses with their Christmas lights and

decorations already up. The radio was playing Christmas songs, and my thoughts were that it was still November and that it wasn't even Advent until Sunday!

Sunday was Advent Sunday, the start of the church's New Year. It is a season that is often overlooked or over-shadowed by the run up to Christmas. It is a time of preparation, of waiting, and of journeying. Advent means '*coming*' and it is a season when we think about that first Christmas and the coming of Jesus into the world. It is also a time to think about when Jesus will come again, and it is a time for recommitting ourselves and welcoming Jesus afresh into our hearts. One of the great Advent hymns has the words "*Oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee*" – let these words be our prayer this Advent.

At Elevate Church on Sunday, the children made a 'Posada'. Posada means a '*lodging*' or an '*inn*'. Some people have what are called Posada figures of Mary & Joseph that they move around their room or home, or move around their church or community during Advent, as they think about Mary & Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem, and as they think about welcoming the coming of Jesus.

For some, Advent is about Advent calendars, marking each day with a piece of chocolate or little picture or message. Some like to light an Advent candle each evening during Advent as they think about the light of Christ. Some join in with the Bible readings for the Jesse Tree (thanks Lucy for preparing these for us), as these help us to journey through Advent and prepare for Christmas. However you mark Advent, let this season be one of preparation and journeying each day with God. Let Advent not be lost or over-shadowed by Christmas. Let this Advent be a time when we each prepare our hearts, and let our prayer be one of welcoming Jesus into every part of our lives.

Happy Advent. **Anne Bradford**

*Oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for thee.*

Amen.



Sunday 5th December

Esther

Esther 4:1-17

4 When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. 2 But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it.

3 In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

5 Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. 6 So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate.

7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

9 Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then she instructed him

to say to Mordecai,

11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape.

14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." 17 So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Sunday 12th December.

Light to the Nations

Isaiah 42: 1-9

42 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

5 This is what God the Lord says— the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

6 "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

8 "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. 9 See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."



Creation Care Archdeacons £100 Grant

Thankyou to all who voted on Sunday 21st. This has helped us to decide which items to apply for with the grant available to Eco churches. Nikki will be able to order 1 or 2 bird feeders, some wild flower seeds and a litter picker.

We would also like to have a bike stand or rack in the future for those who already cycle to church and to encourage others to do so. If you ride a bike perhaps you could help by letting us know which type of bike stand works best.

We will keep you informed on any progress.

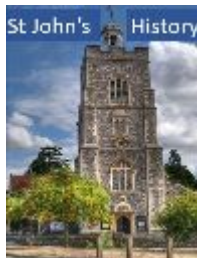
How to have a 'Green' Christmas and show extra care for the environment

Christmas doesn't have to be a burden on the planet. With a little effort and imagination, we can reduce our environmental impact at this time. Here are some ideas to help celebrate the season while caring for the earth:

Buy less Some gifts fill a practical need and need to be bought new, but many are given as a gift of love and thoughtfulness and perhaps thanks. Not all gifts have to be store-bought.

Here are some Ideas from Carbon Savvy

1. Love long-lasting: Do you have hand-me-down items from your grandparent's kitchen? Buying high quality, long lasting products is one of the best ways to save CO₂, and sometimes they last for generations.
 2. Think end-of-life: Is the product we are buying easy to repair or recycle? Will it compost into the earth at the end of its life? Natural materials give you a yes.
 3. Choose pollution-free: Try to get a chemical-free version of the things you need – buy natural and organic.
 4. Avoid packaging: Avoid plastics and other packaging as much as possible, and reduce the excess rubbish created.
 5. Make low impact shopping trips: When you can, go shopping with other members of your family and reduce 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.
 6. Minimise manufacturing: Make, mend, buy handmade or buy second-hand. Britain has wonderful second-hand markets – you can often buy a much higher quality product for a low price when you buy it second-hand.
 7. Shop Local: Buying things made as close to home as possible cuts product miles. It also supports the local economy, giving jobs to our neighbours.
 8. Buy less at higher quality: A great way to save CO₂ is to buy few, but high quality, long-lasting presents. With only a couple of present to make or buy you can spend more time and money on them.
 10. Buy energy-saving presents: A prime example is an electric blanket to cosy up on the sofa in – at 1p an hour to run, they are typically 50 times cheaper than an electric room heater and 200 times cheaper than central heating.
- Give experiences, make memories: Taking someone out for a meal, visiting a special place, getting tickets to the theatre, or an activity class like cooking or art, can be really memorable and avoids manufacturing and packaging. **Christine Rodrigues**



Richard Pope

The tour of the church monuments which started on January 2020 is nearly at a close, I am just left with the gravestones set into the floor to tell you about.

On the floor of the North Aisle, there is large black gravestone marking the place where Richard Pope is buried. Richard died on November 16th 1651, so it's pretty amazing that we can still read the inscription, given the number of feet that have walked over this gravestone stone over the centuries. He left a widow and one daughter. The inscription reads:

“tho' dead yet he lives in ye good name he hath left behind, sending forth it sweet savour like a precious ointment...his spirit lives with God in sweetest rest”.

Richard Pope is described as a yeoman which in English history which was the word used to describe someone in the class between the gentry and labourers. A yeoman was usually a landowner.

There are other people with the name Pope buried in the churchyard, they lived at Philpott's Farm (the land between Pield Heath Road and Yiewsley), perhaps they were all part of the same family. **Christine Bartlett**



Richard Pope's Gravestone.



Pray for the family and friends of Joyce Allen who sadly went to be with God. Joyce was a member of St John's for many years. We have the comfort of knowing that she will be reunited with her beloved Husband.

Advent Wreath Prayers 2021



Second Sunday of Advent Sunday 5th December

Light a candle in your own home for Peace

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus.

Help us to grow in inner peace through knowing Christ,
not just acknowledge Peace as a good idea.

Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming
by working for Christ's peace to take root in our hearts.

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

Third Sunday of Advent Sunday 12th December

Light a candle in your own home for Joy

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

5th December - 9am in person Holy Communion Service & 10:30am in person and via Zoom with Holy Communion and Hymns. (Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808> to join from 10am)

12th December - 4pm '**Carol's For all**' There will be no other earlier services on this day.

19th December - 10:30am '**Journey to Christmas**' There will be no 9am Service on this day.

24th December Christmas Eve- 3:30pm & 5:30pm in person and via Zoom '**Christingle Services**' At the end of this service a collection for the Children's society will take place. **Booking is required for both services if coming in person. Please book your place via Nikki on 07972618584 or stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com.**

24th December Christmas Eve- 11:30pm '**Midnight Holy Communion**' by Candlelight. In person service only.

25th December Christmas Day- 10:30am in person Holy Communion service. Bring along a present to show!

26th December- 10:30am '**Zoom into Boxing Day**'
(Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808> to join from 10am in the comfort of your home)

Update: If you are joining us in person we have the following in place to help protect against the spread of Coronavirus:

- **Masks:** You are required to wear a mask inside the church and when singing unless you are exempt. If you are exempt you should have an exemption card and wear this on a lanyard so that others are at ease. Masks are available at the entrance to St John's. However you may wish to use your own mask.

- **Hand sanitiser:** This is available when you enter and at various locations inside St. John's, although you may wish to bring your own.

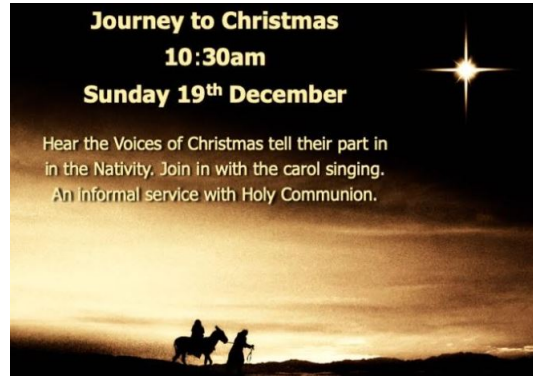
-**Signing in:** Upon entering St John's please see one of the Welcomers who will sign you in.

- **Seating:** Please only sit in the pews that have a red seat cushion and a sign on the end. This is due to keeping a safe distance to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. It also helps when we administer the Holy Communion as the servers can use the pew in between.

- **Coffee and Tea:** Currently we have not reinstated this yet. We continue to monitor and review this and will let you know on the link when we will be able to offer refreshments.

If you have any questions/concerns about any of the above please do contact Alan or myself.

Nikki



NOTICES



Save the Children

Carol, Rick and Roy will be taking part in Voices in Accord's annual Christmas Concert in aid of Save The Children on Saturday 18th December. The concert will feature Christmas songs and carols and will be taking place at North Hillingdon Methodist Church in Long Lane at 2.45pm. No tickets required but there will be a retiring collection in Aid of Save the Children.



Thank You message from Armel

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations, which has helped me furnish my new home. This would not have been possible without your support. You have all been so very kind with donations of items, which has been fantastic and much needed. I am very happy with my new home and blessed to be part of such a great community.

Thank you again for your overwhelming generosity. **Armel**



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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