

The Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 85 Sun 9th - Sat 22nd January 2022
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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>

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Text/Phone 07972 618584

Vicar: Alan Bradford

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St. John's Church,

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www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



You might have seen the letters 'C+M+B' with numbers either side of it above a door. 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 that has just started, so now we are in 2022, the numbers for this year are 20 and 22, so it is 20+C+M+B+22.

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 represent their initials, but these letters 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 our room or our home, to bless our goings out and our comings in, and to bless 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.

As I write this, we are unsure if there will be more restrictions this new year thanks to covid! But even without extra restrictions, this pandemic has made our going out more limited. Yet this can still be our prayer. We can pray for God to bless and protect us when we do go out. 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.

This year, let this number and letter combination 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+22. As we pray, '*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*' in 2022, may Christ bless each of our homes every day of this year. **Anne Bradford**



Sunday 9th January
Glorifying God as a Disciple.
Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Sunday 16th January
Eternity Affects the Here and Now!
Matthew 6:19-24

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If

your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.



Sunday Preaching Themes for the Weeks Ahead.

9th January - Glorifying God as a Disciple.

16th January - Eternity Affects the Here and Now!

23rd January - Rewards Here on Earth.

30th January - Purposeful Living for Fulfilment.

6th February- Intentional Growth.

13th February- Helping One Another.



Here we are at the start of another year. Perhaps hoping for change or wondering what the new year will bring or even maybe just wanting to get on with life.

I haven't included any eco notes or tips for the link. I thought I would have a rest and mention something else with a kind of link to the environment.

On a pre Christmas outing to Great Missenden I went to St Andrews christian bookshop. They have a large selection of books including many secondhand. I came away with 3 books coming to the grand total of £2.20 so saved money and I'm reading recycled books!

They are all providing much needed input at this time. The first is called 'The Eye of the Needle' by David Adam, a meditation on 'Be thou my vision'. The words and practices suggested have been helpful with where I am at the moment with my life.

Another is 'Saying yes to life' by Ruth Valerio. This was the Archbishop of Canterbury's lent book for 2020, which some of you may have read. It may not be lent but the author heads each chapter with a verse from Genesis. Each chapter looks at an aspect of creation, our concerns on the environment, and on social and ethical matters.

My third choice was 'Waiting on God' by Simone Weil, who was a French philosopher, mystic, and political activist. I have chosen this to find out more about her life, but it is also providing food for thought.

At Christmas I received 'A Warning from the Golden Toad' by Tim Flannery who is an Australian palaeontologist, conservationist and writer. Its only a small book and is one of a series from penguin on green ideas. So I have plenty to read and to start my journey with into the new year.

Happy New Year. Christine Rodrigues

'Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art; Be thou my best thought in the day and the night. both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.'



Parsons

The next gravestone on the floor of the church is at the end of the North Aisle just before the Toddlers Corner. The stone is very worn but thankfully we have a transcript of the wording, which reads as follows:

Here rests the body of John Parsons of this town and Daniel his son the son died November 27th 1702 aged 19 years the father died May 19th 1703 aged 48 years

Father & Son do thus together lye

Let young and old prepare to dye

There is not much more information about this family other than we know that they were butchers, but we can assume they as they were buried under the floor of the church building, they were well respected and wealthy. **Christine Bartlett**



John and Daniel Parsons Gravestone.



Pray for the family and friends of Steven Alford who sadly went to be with God before Christmas.

Hold his wife Geraldine in your prayers.

Also for the family and friends of Pamela Helm who also went to be with God before Christmas.

Both Funerals will be held at St John's.



Services

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

-Lateral Flow Testing: Please take a lateral flow test before attending our services. This is a precaution to make sure that you are not asymptomatic. If you feel unwell and have any of the coronavirus symptoms please stay at home and request a PCR test.

- **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



St John's is need of a good New Year clean!

Now the decorations are down St. John's has lost the sparkle and shine!

If you are available next week on **Tuesday 11th** or **Wednesday 12th January** from **9:30am**.

Please do come along even if you only have 30 mins to spare every little helps. 30 mins could polish a pew or two! All cleaning products will be provided.

I will be at the church until 11:30am on Tuesday and 12:30pm on the Wednesday. *Nikki*



Cedar Tree Update

Some of you may have noticed that the Cedar tree has had much more work done. (As you will see in the below pictures!)

The tree surgeons attended on the 22nd December bright and early. It was a warm, clear day for December, with no wind. Ha! Ha!

So the eager team set to work and by 12noon had tackled most of the high branches. When I returned later in the day only part of the trunk remained!

We are currently waiting for a date for the rest of the trunk to be removed and the roots to be grinded out. We will inform you of the date when we hear. *Nikki Bell*



Before the work started...



12noon...



The end result! A very hard days work!
The diameter of the trunk is enormous.
If you are passing please do have a look.



Royal Institution Christmas Lecture Series.

On the 30th December BBC Four aired episode 3 of The Royal Institution Christmas Lecture series. This episode was fantastic, all about the science of vaccines.

The programme was led by Jonathan Van-Tam and leading experts. They explored vaccines, variants and viral genetic codes. The programme is designed for all ages. It was very informative and relevant given the current situation and with the success of the Covid-19 vaccines. The episode was called **Fighting Back** and is available on **BBC iPlayer**.

If you have an hour and would be interested in watching the programme, you can view on your digital device [here](#) (If you are using this link it will ask you for you to sign into your iPlayer account and ask you to confirm that you have a TV licence.) Alternatively you can watch this programme on your catch up service through your TV.

BBC Four - Royal Institution Christmas Lectures- Fighting Back episode 3.

Looking Ahead....

Sunday 9th - 9am, 10:30am Services.

Monday - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing,
Private Prayer. 8pm Bellringing Practice.

Tuesday- 9:30am Cleaning, 12noon Jazz,
7:30pm Accordion Band.

Wednesday - 9:15am Nikki Office (Cleaning)

Thursday- 9:15am Nikki Office, 11am
Funeral, 1pm Jazz.

Friday - 12noon Jazz

Saturday - 11am- 4pm Music Tuition

Sunday 16th - 9am,10:30am & 12:30
Services.

Monday - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing,
Private Prayer, 8pm Bellringing Practice.

Tuesday - 9:15am Private Prayer, 12noon
Jazz, 7:30pm Accordion Band.

Wednesday - 9:15am Nikki Office.

Thursday - 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon
Jazz.

Friday - 12noon Jazz.

Saturday - 11am -4pm Music Tuition.

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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