

The Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 97 Sun 5th June- Sat 18th June 2022
Registered Charity 1128058

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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

Email stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com
Text/Phone 07972 618584

Vicar: Alan Bradford

Email abradford@hotmail.co.uk
Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599

Safeguarding Officer: Richard Bell

Email: info@shieldsmore.co.uk
Text/Phone: 07934 871538

St. John's Church,

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



Grace is

Prompted recently by the hymn 'Amazing Grace', I've been doing a little thinking about grace.

What is 'grace' to you, God's grace? Why not pause for a moment and think about how would you define 'grace', thinking about God's grace? How would you describe it in your own words? Give it a try!

I'm not sure dictionary definitions do the word justice! Many have found the idea of **G R A C E** being **God's Riches At Christ's Expense** helpful. There is so much that God has made available to us through Christ's sacrifice, now and in the future, that we can appropriate and live in through faith. This 'definition' is helpful in many ways,

The hymn Amazing Grace speaks about grace being wonderful (How sweet the sound) and there to save us so we are found from a lost state. Grace is there for our journey and there to lead us home to our heavenly dwelling. I hadn't actually noted before that the hymn doesn't explicitly mention Christ or the cross, or even God! That is not to say, of course, that God and Christ are not uppermost and in our thoughts and hearts as we worship God with this song.

How about this as a way of defining and of thinking about 'Grace' . .

Grace is Generosity plus Truth !

If we imagine a bird with one wing called '**Generosity**' and the other '**Truth**'. The bird needs both wings to fly.

Certainly, '**generosity**' is a good word to use as we think of God's grace. There's God's generosity in offering us total forgiveness from all our moral failures and from all the moral duties we have failed to do. There's God's generosity in offering us eternal life through faith, and we don't have to earn it, not one little bit! (It's by grace which is a free gift!) Then there's God's generosity in making the Holy Spirit available to us to guide and help us, and so we can have intimacy with God. Then there's God's generosity shown in his abundant creation. So much more could be listed and said.

Now what about the wing of the bird called '**truth**'? Certainly we need to know the truth about God and the sacrifice of Christ, in order to appropriate his saving grace. I think there is a balance needed with the 2 wings of 'truth' and 'generosity'. I would argue that both are needed as counterbalances as we think about 'grace'.

If we are too much on the 'truth' side then we can become very rule-bound and expecting others to come up to the 'right' standard all the time. Perhaps we can be too legalistic without cutting others some slack, generosity and grace. The Pharisees and legalism springs to mind. Jesus did himself 'break' the rules about the Sabbath!

On the other hand, if we are too much on the 'generosity' side and neglect truth, then it can be a case of 'anything goes'. An example is a parent who always says 'yes' and gives into their child, with no boundaries. Another would be the idea that being very promiscuous as 'okay, when in truth this can be very hurtful and destroy relationships and families. Total freedom may seem to be a good idea, but it needs to be counterbalanced with the truth. So Grace needs the two wings of 'generosity' and 'truth'.

What are your thoughts on this, and on grace. Take a moment to thank God for his amazing grace!

In God's love,
Alan



Sunday 5th June
Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome

11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

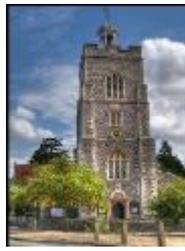
15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Sunday 12th June
Trinity
John 16: 12-15

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.



St. John's Services Update

Following the recent Government announcement of relaxation of some of the Covid measures, St. John's PCC reviewed, discussed and decided:

Front Doors- We are now using the main front doors as the weather is getting better.

Face Masks - This is now a personal choice. For those that wish to wear your mask you may prefer to sit at the back in the last rows, to help you feel more comfortable around those singing without a mask. However, you are equally free to sit anywhere you would like.

We will still have face masks available for those that wish to take them. We ask that you continue to be mindful to others.

Space - After a review on Wednesday 6th April We are trialling different ways for Holy Communion so that we can make full use of the church pews.

Zoom- Will continue.

Testing prior to attending church- Not now needed however if you feel unwell then please stay home, you may wish to test if you have any of the coronavirus symptoms and connect via zoom.

Refreshments - This is now up and running. For this to continue we really need more people to sign up for volunteering please see Nikki or Alan if you can help in anyway.



Count on Nature From 4-12 June 2022,

Churches Count on Nature brings local people together to discover the wildlife in their local church yard. It is a nationwide project open to all churches, run in partnership by Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England Environment Programme, and the Church in Wales.

During Churches Count on Nature, the Church of England Environment Programme are running a special series of webinars on different aspects of land and nature.

Find help with biological recording, how to managing your grassland, find your faith in trees, hear from the Church Commissioners, learn about bats, oceans, growing food and faith, and far more.

You can also find the whole playlist from our 2021 season on YouTube. [\(616\) land and nature webinars - YouTube](#)

Time to Deliver from Tearfund

Last month Tearfund launched Time to Deliver – a campaign calling on the UK Government to influence other wealthy countries to deliver the finance they promised to help frontline communities respond to the climate crisis. So far, they've had a great response, with more than 5,000 people signing our petition and praying for the UK Government to make good on its promises.

As the climate crisis threatens to push millions of people back, or deeper, into poverty, the church has an important role to play.

Visit the [website](#) for more information about Time to Deliver and don't miss the [latest blog](#) about why climate mitigation and adaptation are critical if we are to limit global temperature rises to below 1.5°C. And if you haven't already done so, please [sign the petition](#) and [pray](#) the UK Government delivers on its climate finance promises.



Brenda and I took part in The Big Plastic Count. It was interesting to see the amount of plastic I used in a week and which types of plastic were used most and to consider how to reduce the total. From a letter to Brenda.

Hi Brenda, A huge thank you and well done! You're making history by taking part in the biggest ever investigation into plastic waste. Whether your motivation is for the planet, for people's health, for your community or people in other countries where our waste is dumped, or for anything else - you've been part of something truly amazing and you've already made a huge difference by taking part! So thank you... Once everyone's submitted their findings, we'll be crunching all the data to work out the national results. The aim is to uncover the truth about how much we're collectively having to throw away and what really happens to it. The results will help prove that we need bigger, bolder action to solve the plastic problem



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Thursday 2nd June

11am – Trooping the Colour followed by Flypast (10am–1:15pm on BBC1)

1pm (ish!) – part of Flypast over Heathrow

2pm – Town Crier in Uxbridge

9pm – bagpipes & trumpet, followed by Jubilate Choir outside Civic Centre

9:45pm – Jubilee Beacon lit in Uxbridge

Beacons lit across 54 Commonwealth Member States (8pm–10pm on BBC1)

Friday 3rd June

*10am Quarter Peal St. John's Bells

10:50am – Bells ringing out across the UK

11:30am – Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral (9:15pm–12:30pm on BBC1)

Saturday 4th June

*11am Quarter Peal St. John's Bells

8pm – Platinum Party at the Palace (7:30pm–10:30pm on BBC1)

Sunday 5th June

10:30am – Service for Pentecost Sunday at St John's

followed by our Jubilee Picnic*

12:10–12:45pm – Songs of Praise: Platinum Jubilee Special (on BBC1)

2–4pm – Picnic and music in Fassnidge Park

2:30–5pm – National Platinum Pageant Parade (1pm–5:30pm on BBC1)

***JUBILEE PICNIC**

Straight after our 10:30am mid-morning service, in the Memorial Garden.

Please bring your picnic lunch, and a blanket or camping chair.

But if wet weather, we will picnic in church.

Bring your flags for the sing-a-long.

Wearing red, white & blue is optional!

Games, activities, have your photo taken with 'The Queen'

Join us celebrating
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Sunday 5th June
for a
PICNIC LUNCH

straight after our
10:30am mid-morning service

- please bring your picnic lunch, and a blanket or camping chair
- bring your flags for the sing-a-long
- wearing red, white & blue is optional



Churchyard News

Thank you to Peter Janssens for adding a much needed layer of Creocote to the wooden cross and benches in the Garden of Remembrance. As you will see in the above pictures the Garden furniture is now back to its amazing glory and just in time for the rain!



Please include in your prayers;
The ongoing situation in the Ukraine. For all those in fear, suffering, injured, bereaved, displaced.

For Joyce Marshall

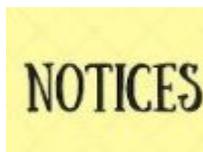
Please continue to pray for Joyce her faith is strong and she is asking for your prayers for her, for her husband Hughie and the family at this time.

For The family and friends of baby Chay who sadly went to be with God. The Funeral for Baby Chay will be held on 13th June at St John's.

For Those getting Married at St John's:

3rd June - Toryn and Tanya

4th June- Craig and Rachael



**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

Big thank you to everyone who collected for the Children's Society with your at home boxes. Myself and Jacky counted all the boxes and went to the bank on Thursday 26th May 2022 to pay in all your kind donations to the Children's Society Charity. The total figure raised through the at home boxes was **£755.88!** Thank you to Jacky for helping with the coin counting! *Nikki*



Thank you to everyone who attended the Stardust Big Band event on the 22nd May 2022. It was a fantastic evening, which tickets on the door paying by cash has raised **£575.00** for St. John's! We still have the card payments to look into.



Alpha Course March/April 2022 7:15 for a 7:30pm start

Alpha is an exciting opportunity to come together as a group and discuss all things faith, life and what is the meaning of it all!

This will be an 8-week course with the opportunity for confirmation at the end. running every Wednesday from 30th March-May 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

It is perfect for everyone, from someone who knows their Bible word for word to those that want to explore. You do not need to know anything to come along.

Alpha is a great place to start and explore whilst making new connections with others who have questions just like you!

There will also be refreshments and snacks available.



Looking Ahead....

Sunday 5th 9am Service, 10:30am Service, 12noon Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic.

Monday - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, 12noon Jazz, Private Prayer. 8pm Bellringing Practice, 8pm Mandolin Monday.

Tuesday- 9am Private Prayer, 10am Piano Tuning, 12noon Jazz, 7:30pm Accordion Band.

Wednesday - 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon Words and Music, 1pm Knitting Group. 7:15pm Alpha Course

Thursday- 9am Nikki Office, 9:30am Church hire, 12noon Jazz.

Friday - 10am Let's Go, 12noon Jazz.

Saturday - 11am- 4pm Music Tuition- Grundon Room.

Sunday 12th - 9am Service, 10:30am Service.

Monday - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, 12noon Funeral of Baby Chay Private Prayer, 8pm Bellringing Practice, 8pm Mandolin Monday.

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

Wednesday - 9:15am Nikki Office. 12noon Words and Music, 1pm Knitting Group, 7:15pm Alpha Course.

Thursday - 9:15am Nikki Office, 9:30am Church Hire, 12noon Jazz.

Friday - 10am Let's Go, 12noon Jazz.

Saturday - 11am -4pm Music Tuition- Grundon Room.

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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