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The Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 91 Sun 3rd - Sat 16th April 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>

Church Administrator: Nikki Bell

Email stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com

Text/Phone 07972 618584

Vicar: Alan Bradford

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St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Thank You God!

For prayers answered in faith I thank God, and I want to share the reasons for my gratitude with you all.

Firstly, in thinking about the life of my father, I thank and praise God for answering the prayers of members of his family. The prayers went up to our Heavenly Father, asking that he would become a Christian and a follower of God. And, wow, these prayers were indeed answered! Some had prayed for years, and had almost given up, then in the late 90's a grandchild started prayed consistently, and the miracle happened! Thereafter the fruit of a changed life lived for God over many years became so evident and real. I am so proud of his life and his faith which is an inspiration to me.

Secondly, I want to thank God for answering my prayers when I couldn't properly advertise and inspire people to come to our new Alpha course due to the recent death of my Dad, and all the trips in recent weeks to be with him and family in the Midlands. This led to me feeling inadequate - nobody will come! - and I had to let go, pray and trust God at a 'higher' level of faith. I thank God that, despite not being on the scene, he has provided Kate & Katie as co-facilitators and also a lovely number and group of people at our first Alpha session tonight (Wednesday 30th!). Thank you God.

Keep exercising your faith, folks, and keep praying.



Sunday 3rd April

Bearing Fruit: Spiritual Fruit Bearing:

Galatians 5:16-25

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Sunday 10th April

Bearing Fruit: Keeping True North

Matthew 21: 1-11

21 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

3 If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." 4 This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: 5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

7 They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" 10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" 11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."



Sunday Preaching Themes for the Weeks Ahead.

3rd April- Spiritual Fruit Bearing. Galatians 5:16-25

10th April- Bearing Fruit: Keeping True North. Matthew 21: 1-11

17th April - Easter Sunday



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 - The every other pew use will be reviewed at the end of March. It is easier to administer the Communion using the space in between so this will continue for the time being.

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.



Fast Fashion

We touched on this a few weeks I thought it would be good to revisit this.

So what is the problem with Fast Fashion? Are you confused by it all?

You're not alone, finding a new shirt that costs less than a cup of coffee can seem like a great thing at the time, until you find out the true cost behind it all. Thinking more ethically could change the lives of others. help our health and the planet.

The sad truth about Fast Fashion is the reality of slave labour. some places in the world aren't as lucky when it comes to fair labour laws. Mass producing companies all over the world exploit the workforce in order to achieve fast and cheaply made garments. Some workers are given no breaks, working long hours for barely enough to support themselves or their families. The mass producing companies will also use cheap and dirty fabric. The toxic chemicals used in these type of fabrics also cause negative effects to the planet. The quality of the garments gets lost in the making and items tend to fall apart and do not last long ending in landfill . Fast Fashion is one of the highest polluting industries in the world aside from oil and gas.

Buying good quality items (Slow Fashion). Where companies believe in fair labour and living wages. Employees are paid the true cost of what goes into making products by hand, in a quality working environment. Using ethically sourced materials, which are sustainable fabrics that won't harm people or cause havoc on the environment. Materials like bamboo- cotton etc that is eco- friendly and organic is a much better option. However, Slow Fashion tends to be more expensive initially! What is the answer? Clothes made with better materials and care should last longer so in the long run is more economical.

But what about Fashion changes? Fashion trends do repeat so why not try Preloved Fashion. Keep hold of your items (If you have space), If not donate them to charity shops or other organisations. If you are looking for a new fashion item try charity shops first you may be surprised and find a vintage one of a kind quality made item at the fraction of the cost of buying new. Re-loving fashion that already exists. Making a positive difference.

On Sat 9th April 2022 there is a new event coming to Ealing:

"Preloved Fashion Pop-Up"

Open Ealing Unit 14

School Lane

Dickens Yard

W5 2TD

To find out more about this event Click [here](#) **Chris Rodrigues**



If you are looking for a great place to take the children during the Easter holidays then check out Iver Environment Centre. They are offering some great environmental, educational and family fun days which includes drop off days.

For more information visit their website [here](#)

Or contact them direct on Tel: 01895 270730 or email: iverenvironment@groundwork.org.uk



Tot's Go Wild at Black Park

Explore and get messy at Black Park! Forest School style sessions aimed at 1-5 year olds are taking place most Friday's 1st, 8th 29th April and Friday 6th May.

They are also offering Litter Bugs Trails up to Sunday 24th April. To find out more please click [here](#)



Churchyard News

On Monday 21st March there was a hive of activity in the Churchyard. We welcomed the lovely Mercer Family pictured below to St John's to plant a new tree.

The Mercer family have kindly donated a Crataegus Pauls Scarlet (Hawthorn Tree) in loving memory of their late Father Roy and Mother Daphne. It was a wonderful sunny day, Thank you to Mark Hamlin and all those that helped to prepare the ground for the tree to be planted.

We all shared a nice coffee/tea with biscuits and a chat after.

The tree is thriving in its new home as you will see from the photos of the new buds. I am looking forward to seeing it in full bloom probably not this year but hopefully in the next few years as it continues to grow and thrive.

The tree was to replace the loss of our Cedar tree we do hope it will attract the same comments and be just as beautiful only a little smaller in size!





Work to remove the trees and the tree roots from Coney Green took place on 24th March. These trees and roots were the main cause of the recent collapse of the boundary wall by the Uxbridge Road which some of you may have noticed. Now this ground work is complete the wall can be rebuilt.

The Churchyard continues to thrive with special thanks to all the many who volunteer their time to support and maintain this beautiful space. If you would like to join them on a Monday morning please just come along from 9:30am most equipment is provided the Churchyard team would welcome any help.



Caroline's Research Project

Dear Friends, I am completing some research involving the sung worship and music at St. John's Hillingdon and how the congregation feels this is or isn't helping them to develop their relationship with God.

In order to help you decide whether to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

Research Question What factors impact the way music and sung worship enable those attending the mid-morning service to develop their relationship with God?

Aims This research will encourage the participants to reflect on the part that music and sung worship play in their personal relationship with God. It will seek to ascertain the importance it may or not play in connecting with God during worship. Drawing on peoples honest feedback, a review can then be made on how we can further develop and grow our worship through music at the Sunday service.

Participants A wide cross section of the congregation has been asked to participate including those who have been involved in providing our music and sung worship both now and in the past. The only stipulation is that you have attended at least 3 Sunday morning services (either in person or via Zoom) from which you can draw on to reflect.

You are free to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you do wish to take part, you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. It is usually not practical to withdraw after the research project has been written up. If you take part you will be asked to sign a consent form, and you will be given a copy of it to keep.

What the research will involve You will be asked to complete a series of 14 questions. This should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete and you are encouraged to be completely frank and honest in your responses.

Completing the questionnaire will require you to reflect upon your own understanding of worship and your personal relationship with God.

Confidentiality and use of Data The information that you provide will be collated into a research report which will enable us as a church to develop our music and sung worship during our Sunday services. The questionnaires and responses to them will remain anonymous at all times. The report will not be shared beyond St Mellitus College and St John's, Hillingdon. The data collected will be kept securely and will be destroyed after 6 months.

This research is governed by the Research Ethic Policy of St Mellitus College which can be viewed here: <https://www.stmellitus.ac.uk/research-ethics-policy> The research supervisor is Joseph Diwakar and he can be contacted by email at Joseph.Diwakar@stmellitus.ac.uk

If you would like to take part please email the office and a copy of the questionnaire and consent form will be sent to you electronically or a hard printed copy can be sent via the post.

On Sunday 3rd April copies will be available for those that wish to take part.

For those that have already completed the Questionnaire please return this to Caroline, Nikki or Kate Weller.

There are 2 consent forms one for you to keep and one for Caroline please ensure that Caroline's copy is returned separately from the questionnaire so that we can keep the questionnaires anonymous.

Thank you for considering taking part. It is greatly appreciated



Please include in your prayers;

The ongoing situation in the Ukraine. For all those in fear, suffering, injured, bereaved, displaced.

O Lord God,

Your son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
in his resurrection he restores life and peace in all creation.

Comfort we pray, all victims of intolerance
and those oppressed by their fellow humans.

Remember in your kingdom those who have died.

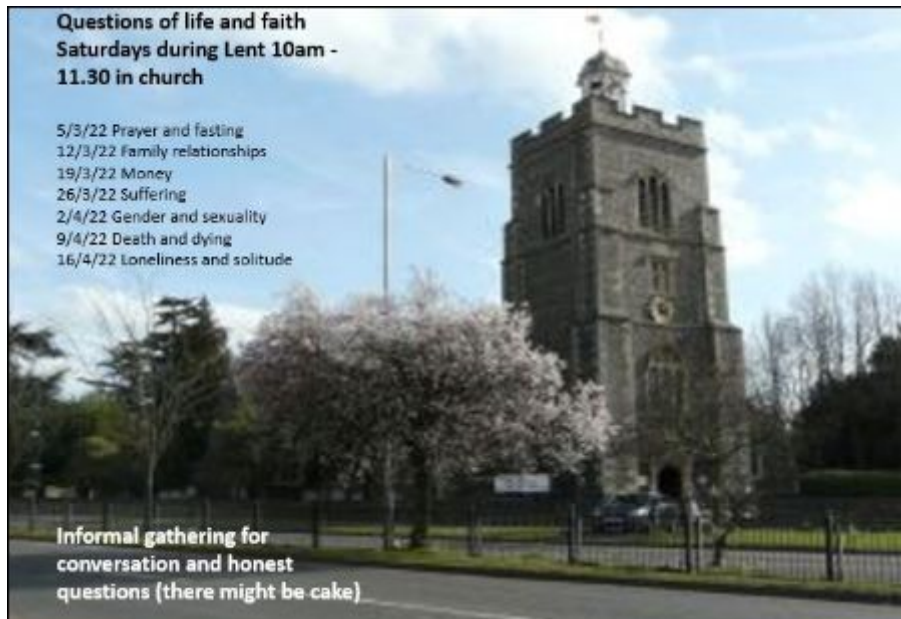
Lead the oppressors towards compassion
and give hope to the suffering.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Alan, Margaret (Alan's Mum), his sisters Jan and Alison and the Bradford family. As they prepare for the Funeral of Niven (Alan's Dad) which will be taking place on the 11th April.

NOTICES



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.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday – 10th April

9am, 10:30am, 12:30pm

Maundy Thursday – 14th April

The Last Supper Experience

in your own home (info sheet available)

The Watch

light a candle and keep The Watch in your home or garden

Good Friday – 15th April

pray for local churches, homes and businesses

Journey to the Cross

2pm reflections around the Cross in the Memorial Garden
(weather permitting, otherwise in church)

Easter Day – Sunday 17th April

9am & 10:30am

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Easter Flower Project

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this project again. We have received so many beautiful creations. Anne asked if possible could all the completed creations please be brought into the Church by Sunday 3rd April. Thank you again.



Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be taking place at 10:30am on 22nd May 2022 this year. The Annual report will be sent out and printed a few weeks prior to the meeting.



The ever-popular Stardust Big Band has started using St John's Church as their regular practice venue every Sunday evening and they have offered to do a concert for us in aid of church funds. Tickets will be available on the door for £10 each.

Sunday 22nd May 2022 6pm at St. John's Hillingdon
Concert by Stardust Big Band in aid of Church funds.
Tickets £10 on the door.

Please tell your friends, neighbours, work-colleagues, etc. as the more people we can encourage to come along the more that will be raised for the on-going ministry of our church.

To give you a flavour of their music the attached link will take you to a very clever composite video of the band performing together (virtually) during the Covid pandemic lockdowns!

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

If you are able, please print out this poster [click here](#) and display it somewhere.



Looking Ahead....

Sunday 3rd April - 9am Service, 10:30am Service.

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

Tuesday- 9am 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 - 12noon Jazz.

Saturday - 10:30am- Lent Questions of Life and Faith, 11am- 4pm Music Tuition- Grundon Room.

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

Monday - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, 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 - Good Friday 12noon Jazz.

Saturday - 10:30am Lent Questions of Life and Faith,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

STANDING ORDER

Set up a Standing Order with your bank or building society using these details:

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

Barclays Bank, 142 High St,
Uxbridge, UB8 1JX
Sort Code: 208916
Account No: 20465615

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