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## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 129 Sun Sunday 17th September - Sat 30th September 2023  
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>

**St. John's Church**, Royal Lane, Uxbridge  
UB8 3QP. [www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk)



So September is upon us and the summer (not that we had a particular good one this year) is almost over; although we started the month with the high temperatures we rather hoped for in July and August! As with most organisations and groups, August is a quiet time for us, when many of

our activities enjoy a hiatus. This break allows us to rest and return to our activities, nicely refreshed, for the autumn. Whilst we have had a somewhat wet summer here in the UK, we know from all the media footage about the devastation that has been caused by the wild fires and flooding which have affected parts of Europe, America, and Canada. I vividly remember an interview on the tv, when the fires in Rhodes were at their worst. The interviewee was a restaurant owner who's restaurant had been completely destroyed by fire. He simply said "we are thanking God that no one was hurt or injured – this is only a building. With God's help we can rebuild". I thought that was an amazing testament of faith.

Keeping to the theme of faith – our small choir, Voices in Accord, performed a charity concert in mid July for the local Brain Tumour charity. We raised almost £500 and were invited in early August to attend one of the support group meetings, so that we could be presented with a fund raising certificate and meet some of the members of the group. Rick, Roy, Linda and I duly turned up to one of the Thursday meetings and were made to feel very welcome. We heard about the various activities of the group and then those members who were there were asked to give a brief overview of who they were. It was so inspirational hearing their stories and more than half of them said that their faith was what kept them going. The lady next to me not only had a brain tumour, but also cancer in other parts of her body, but she was incredibly upbeat and was one of those who affirmed their faith – it was so uplifting.

Inspiration of a different type came when we started to watch the repeats of the BBC2 programme Climbing Great Buildings – which gives you a bird's eye view (literally) of some of the great buildings we have in the UK. The first building which was featured was Durham Cathedral – it is amazing to look at it and think of the workmen who created this wonderful monument to God. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is over one thousand years old and looks magnificent. The presenter, Dr Jonathan Foyle, an architectural historian, scaled over 140ft of the outside tower to see the construction close up. The digging of the foundations of the Cathedral began after prayers on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1093, while the first stones were laid on August 11<sup>th</sup> in the same year. The building of monumental cathedrals in the middle ages was a reflection of the great faith that existed during that era. It is amazing to think that the building was constructed at a time when there was no mechanical help – everything was done by hand and the builders would have had to use enormous wooden scaffolds to build the towers. We had fascinating insights into what they did – there were oyster shells (apparently oysters were very common in those days) put into the mortar to keep the stones from squeezing the liquid mortar out – the oyster shells are still in situ – as Dr Foyle was able to show us as he dangled aloft! The building of the Cathedral took over thirty years to complete, but remains a wonderful testament to the glory of God and to the faith of those who built and designed this wonderful monument.

We all need inspiration in our lives, so I am going to finish this blog with the "motto" of the Hillingdon Brain Tumour Trust –

**"Where there is light, there is hope, where  
there is hope, there is life."**

We all need hope in our lives, and of course we have the light of God's love to provide it – what an inspiring thought! **Carol**





**Sunday 17th September 2023**

**Theme: Miracles- The Miraculous Catch of Fish.**

**Reading: Luke 5:1-11**

- <sup>5</sup> One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding round him and listening to the word of God,
- <sup>2</sup> he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.
- <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.
- <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."
- <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
- <sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.
- <sup>7</sup> So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.
- <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
- <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,
- <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."
- <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

**Sunday 24th September 2023**

**Theme: Arguments for the Existence of God**

**Reading: Genesis 1: 1-6 &14-19**

- <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.
- <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day", and the darkness he called "night". And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.
- <sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water."
- <sup>14</sup> And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,
- <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.
- <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.
- <sup>17</sup> God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth,
- <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.
- <sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.



### **Themes and Readings for Autumn 2023**

Our Autumn Term will follow 3 main themes. Each week we will be focusing on one of the 3 themes, to allow us time to reflect and help us to include prayer in our everyday life.

**Teach Us To Pray** - 1st Sundays of the Month

**Good Arguments For God's Existence** - 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month

**Miracles**- 3rd Sundays of the Month

### **The Reading and Themes for September are:**

#### **Theme and Reading for:**

10th September 2023: **1 Corinthians 15: 50-58** Arguments for the Existence of God.

17th September: **Luke 5:1-11** Miracles-The Miraculous Catch of Fish.

24th September: **Genesis 1:1-6 & 14-19** Arguments for the Existence of God -Harvest Celebration

1st October: **Acts 4: 23-31** Teach Us to Pray.

**10th September 2023: 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58** Arguments for the Existence of God. To go deeper following Alan's talk on the existence of the universe, click on the following link to watch a 5m video.

Good to watch a couple of times!<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPCzEP0oD7I>



### **Friends of Earth**

Restart Party/Repair Cafe will be on Saturday 23rd September from 10am-2pm in Botwell leisure Centre, East Avenue, Hayes UB3 2HW as part of Hillingdon's Repair and Reuse Day. Please get in touch if you would like to help with hosting or fixing, as we are hoping to expand our core of fixers and hosts to cater for a rising demand for these events.

If you wish to bring a small electrical or electronic device that needs a repair, please sign up at the last link on [this page](#).

### **Our place on Earth**

#### **Genesis**

1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **24** And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind."

God created the world and all that lives within it.

That is all the natural world including us.

We are nature.

We are made of the same elements as all living things.

We share the same air that we breathe each day along with all things that breathe.

The breath of life.

We share the water that cleanses and gives life to us all.

We are 75% water.

The waters of life.

We share the energy from the sun ,creating the process of photosynthesis in plants that enables us to live.

We share the earth,the land and soil with all living things.

We came from the earth.

The soil provides our food.

The land provides us with a place to live.

We are alive on planet earth with all the plants and creatures that have life.

We can give thanks for our lives on the earth.

Pray for all the life that lives upon it and increase our awareness of how we are all connected.

We are part of nature.

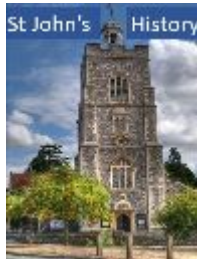
Some words from Pope John Paul II,

**"It is my hope that the inspiration of Saint Francis will help us to keep ever alive a sense of 'fraternity' with all those good and beautiful things which Almighty God has created.**

### **A Rocha Eco Tips**

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Green your home this Autumn. Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bill by testing how draughty or leaky your home is. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, gaps around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials: (there are lots of handy tutorials on how to do this online). Now is also a very good time to prepare for winter by sticking tinfoil or radiator panels between the wall and radiator, as these will help reflect heat back into your room during the colder months.



As explained previously we are revisiting some of the history of St. John's and after an overview of the building itself we will be going inside the church continuing to look at our Brasses.

#### **John Marsh– (Nave)**

D.1561. This brass shows the initials IM and three shields of arms; the first his family coat, the second those of the Mercers Company of which he was a member and third those of the Company of Merchant Adventurers. It was this company that displaced the German Hanseatic League in the wool-carrying trade to the continent, increasing the wealth of England. The Worshipful Company of Mercers is the oldest and most prestigious livery company of the City of London. It was founded in 1394 and originally represented the merchants who traded in fabrics, especially silk, velvet and wool, focused on being a philanthropic force for good. Helping those in most need. John Marsh who, in addition to leaving money for the benefit of St. John's, also gave money for the relief of prisoners and the poor. Today, it is mainly a philanthropic organization that supports education, heritage, church and community causes.

The first photo below commemorates John Marsh who died in 1561 a rebus made up of two rectangles superimposed to form an eight pointed star with the initials IM at the centre. As stated above the others are the arms of Marsh, The Mercers Company and The Merchant

Adventurers. The Rebus and Merchant Adventurers shield are mutilated. The plates are all palimpsest being cut from several earlier brasses.



**Please include in your prayers;**

**For all those** Living in fear, suffering, injured, bereaved, displaced, caught up in tragedy and disaster around the world.

**For the Family and Friends of those who have recently gone to be with God,** Kate Weller, Elizabeth Sands, Beryl Burrows, Kim Rogers, Susan Blackstone, Peter Heyes

**For those that are in need** Brenda & Ken Hogg, Beryl Rowles, Marigold Marsh, Joyce & Hughie Marshall.

**NOTICES**



### Spirit of the Sea

Chris Rodrigues has created an amazing piece of artwork which is now on display in church by the cafe area.

The artwork was inspired by the calming effect of the sea and coastal habitats.

It involves the use of paper as a creative medium, with acrylic paint, printing, photography and found objects.

This way of working, building up an image using individual squares, could present an idea for a group project, one to which we could all contribute. Please speak to Chris or Nikki if you would like to be involved in creating a piece of artwork for the church.



### Cleaning St John's

A huge THANK YOU to those who came to clean on Saturday 8th September.

The next big clean will be taking place on 14th October 2023 at 9:30am. Please do come and join us, we will provide all cleaning materials.

**We really are in need extra people for the higher cleaning of the beams and windows If you would like to help with the higher cleaning but cannot make the 14th speak to Nikki.**

Laminated spread sheets are now available on the kitchen notice board detailing all the cleaning tasks, The idea is that you can record which area has been cleaned and on what date so this can help identify which areas need attention.



**A New Alpha Course is started on Wednesday 13th September 2022 - 7:30pm There is still time to join.**

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!

Alpha is an 8-week course with the opportunity for confirmation at the end.

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 a meal available.

If you are interested in coming along please email or speak to Nikki.



At St. John's we are working closely with our local policing teams to host a special Cultural Heritage Crime Presentation to Churches in Hillingdon explaining what our Faith Liason Officer PC Bab's Rock, The Central Specialist Crime Unit and other Senior Leaders for Hillingdon can do as an organisation to help keep Churches safe and religious artefacts safe, general crime prevention advice and more. They will also have time for us and other Churches to raise any concerns we may have.

The date is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, time is 10am-1pm. If you would like us to ask any questions on your behalf please do write them down and place them in the Red post Box at the back of church. Or better still if you would like to help the church keep safe please do come along.



We will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 24th September during our 10:30am Service.

This year we will be supporting Hillingdon Foodbank and Water Aid.

To support Hillingdon Foodbank please follow this link [Donate money | Hillingdon Foodbank](#) to make a donation.

To donate or find out more about Water Aid click Here [Clean Water, Decent Toilets and Good Hygiene | WaterAid UK](#)



If you would like to donate food items to the Foodbank They are in urgent need of: LONG LIFE JUICE / SQUASH, UHT MILK / POWDERED MILK, TINNED FRUIT, TINNED MEAT AND FISH, NOODLES, RICE, SAUCES, BISCUITS, TINNED TOMATOES, RICE PUDDING/ CUSTARD and SOUPS These can be dropped off to:

Hillingdon Food Bank 30, Oxford Road, Denham UB9 4DQ On Tuesday-Thursday between 11am-1pm.

We will also have a collection in church.



**Get together to help beat poverty. Let's Do It Again!**

**On Saturday 7th October 2023**, churches, families and groups around the land will unite for an epic evening of poverty-beating, community-building fun! **Add the date to your Diary!**

**After our last successful event St. John's will be holding this event again complete with optional Fish & Chips!**

**Please sign up at the back of Church.**

Now in its sixth year, Tearfund's *Big Quiz Night* has raised over an amazing £826,000 to help end extreme poverty.



St John's will again be supporting this amazing charity.

A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer can have a huge impact! Bringing Good News and great joy to children all around the world.

This year it would be great to reach out and give a gift to as many children as we can. I have plenty of boxes, so you no longer need to worry about wrapping up shoe boxes. If you would like to support this appeal or would like a pre wrapped box please contact me via email on [stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com) or by phone on 07972 618584. You can collect pre wrapped boxes on Sunday's at the back of church or pop in and see me during the week. All completed boxes will need to be ready in Church for collection by 10th November at the latest.

You can also pack a shoebox online by giving a donation of £20 and Samaritans Purse will pack a shoebox for you, just click on this link for more information Shoebox Online by visiting [Shoebox Online \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk) Nikki



### **Volunteering at St. John's**

We are always looking for volunteers at St John's if you would like to help out, please speak to Nikki. No matter how small even 30 mins can make a huge difference. We are especially looking for individuals to help with our refreshments on Sundays at St. John's.



### **Looking Ahead....**

**Sunday 17th**- 10:30am Service and Junior Church.

**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, 10am Church Hire, 12noon Words and Music, 1pm Knitting, 7:30pm Alpha.

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

**Friday** - 9:15am Private Prayer, 12noon Jazz.

**Saturday** - 11:30am Music Tuition- Grundon Room.

**Sunday 24th** - 10:30am Service, Harvest Celebration.

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**Friday** - 9:15am Private Prayer, 12noon Jazz.

**Saturday** - 11:30am 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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