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## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 130 Sun Sunday 1st October - Sat 21st October 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)

### **Church Administrator: Nikki Bell**

Email [stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com)  
Text/Phone 07972 618584

### **Vicar: Alan Bradford**

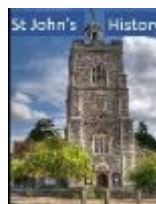
Email: [abradford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abradford@hotmail.co.uk)  
Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847 672599

### **Church Wardens:**

**Rick Williams** Phone 01895 232 888  
**Roy Munday** Text/Phone 07711 278498

### **Safeguarding Officer: Richard Bell**

Email: [info@shieldsmore.co.uk](mailto:info@shieldsmore.co.uk)  
Text/Phone: 07934 871538



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.

**Uxbridge Man Receives Huge Honour!**

Tucked away in a dark corner by the stairs up to the Grundon Room is the brass memorial to William Gomersall. This is the inscription:

*Here lyeth the body of William Gomersall. Late citizen and ironmonger of London who changed this mortal life the first day of July in the year of our Lord 1597. In full and perfect hope of a joyful resurrection and left behind him one son and 2 daughters.*

Above this inscription is his coat of arms which was granted in 1568. The primary use of heraldry was to distinguish knights from one another when they were clad in armour. The right to bear a coat of arms was only really for the nobility and it had a definite meaning and social value, so William Gomersall being granted a coat of arms would have been a huge honour for him and his family.

In 1970 a study was made of the brasses at St John's by Mr H Cameron for the Monumental Brass Society. As well as a full description of each brass, Mr Cameron also researched the lives of those remembered. For William Gomersall, he provides details of the will from the National Archives. According to Mr Cameron, William was a successful merchant and liveryman of the City of London. He owned property on Deptford Strand and Uxbridge. One of the bequests in the will was as follows:

*"two tenements under one roof next to the new churchyard at Uxbridge, with their gardens and orchards, as now divided. The one occupied by one Goodden is to be given to Margaret More the wife of John More for her lifetime at annual rent of one peppercorn. Margaret More also received a wool bed with a whole and sound coverlet and 3 pairs of whole and sound flaxen sheets"*

I wonder what you might say today at receiving a bequest of someone's bed and all the bedding!  
*Christine Bartlett*



**Sunday 1st October 2023**

**Theme: Teach Us To Pray**

**Reading: Acts 4: 23-31**

<sup>23</sup> On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

<sup>24</sup> When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

<sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the

nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

<sup>27</sup> Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

<sup>28</sup> They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

<sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

<sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

<sup>31</sup> After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

### **Sunday 8th October 2023**

**Theme: Good Arguments for God's Existence**

**Reading: 1Peter3: 13-18**

<sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

<sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

<sup>17</sup> It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup> For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Theme: Miracles – It's Faith!**

**Reading: Matthew 14:22-34**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

<sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

<sup>24</sup> but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup> During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

<sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus.

<sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

33 Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret.



### 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 Readings and Themes for September/October are:**

10th September 2023: **1 Corinthians 15: 50-58** Good Arguments for God's Existence.

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

24th September: **Genesis 1:1-6 & 14-19** Good Arguments for God's Existence -Harvest Celebration.

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

8th October: **1 Peter 3: 13-18** Good Arguments for God's Existence.

15th October: **Matthew 14:22-34** Miracles- It's Faith!

**10th September 2023: 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58** Good Arguments for God's Existence. 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>



### **Our place on Earth**

Genesis

**1**In 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. Chris Rodrigues

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.**



#### **Unexpected Find**

After meeting with a friend, we ended our meeting with a prayer and when I walked away, something caught my eye, a symbol of faith, shown in the above picture. Chris Rodrigues.

#### **A Rocha Eco Tips**

##### **October**

Provide food and shelter for wildlife, now and in preparation for next year. Clean all your bird feeders to avoid the spread of disease to winter migrants and put up a nest box well in advance of breeding season. A nest box could also prove a cosy spot for small birds to spend the night on particularly cold winter evenings ahead.



**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,

Grace Birt, Connor Matthews, Elizabeth Sands, Beryl Burrows, Kim Rogers, Susan Blackstone,  
Peter Heyes

Kate Weller's Funeral service will take place at St. John's on Thursday 5th October at 12noon

Connor Matthews Funeral service will take place at St. John's on Wednesday 11th October at  
1pm

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

## NOTICES



We have another fantastic piece of Art on display in church by the cafe area.

### **Gold Leaf.**

A meditation on autumn.

Inspired by the colours and shapes of the leaves of the Oak trees growing in Hillingdon Court Park. I called it 'Gold Leaf' to highlight one leaf, to create a point of focus and perhaps give a moment of peace or focus for prayer.

The gold leaf could also represent a special moment in time, a connection with nature or a relationship with a Person. Christine Rodrigues.



### **Bible Book Names Challenge in support of Gwakabbo School- Uganda**

Mildred and the Trustees of Gwakabbo School Project are raising funds to build a perimeter fence around the 10 acres of land already fully purchased and a caretaker's house before the school building in Northern Uganda; an area that was heavily affected by over 20 years of rebel war and insurgencies which displaced many people into IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps. As a result, the area has been left severely impoverished and under- developed. School facilities are in

dire situations especially following the added impact of the Pandemic, Covid 19.

At the moment, 3 people from the Congregation have taken up the challenge of learning the names of the Books of the Bible. There is still an opportunity for more people to take up the challenge. Alternatively, you could sponsor those who have taken up the challenge. Mildred has forms for the sponsorship, or names of those who have volunteered for the challenge, if you would like to sponsor them instead. The Quiz will take place on Sunday the 22nd October after the 10.30 a.m. service, with contestants writing out their answers in the Lady Chapel.

Alternatively, you can make donations directly to Gwakabbo account using our Partners' S.H.O.C.C Charity Registered account below: Please reference it (with your name:

GWAKABBO).

S.H.O.C.C

Llyods Bank

Sort Code: 30 98 79

Account Number: 02487118

Thank you very much. Mildred



**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 do send me your order by 2pm on Thursday 28th October as I need to hand this to the Village Fish and chip shop. Nikki**

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



### **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.



### St. John's Christmas Craft Fair

Locally made crafts direct from the makers!

When: Saturday 4th November 2023

Time: 12:30pm

All welcome, Free admission.

If you have any handcrafted goods you would like to donate please speak to Nikki.

Funds raised will go towards St. John's.



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.shoeboxonline.org.uk) Nikki





Our Remembrance service will be held on Sunday 12th November 2023.

**10am** Service with Holy communion in church

**10:50am** Act of Remembrance Outside with the laying of wreaths and 2 mins silence in the Garden of Remembrance and then will continue in St. John's.



### 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 1st**- 10:30am Service

**Monday** - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, 12noon Jazz 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 Funeral Service

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

**Saturday** - 11:30am Music Tuition- Grundon Room. 6:30pm Tearfund Big Quiz

**Sunday 8th** - 10:30am Service.

**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, 1pm Funeral Service Alpha 7:30pm.

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

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

**Saturday** - 9:30am Church Cleaning, 11:30am Music Tuition - Grundon Room.

**Sunday 15th** -10:30am Service.

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

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

**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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