

[View this email in your browser](#)

## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 131 Sun Sunday 22nd October - Sat 4th November 2023  
Registered Charity 1128058

**Donate**

Use online giving here to catch up on your giving or to make a donation.

### **In this Issue!**

[St. John's History](#)

[Readings](#)

[Theme](#)

[ECO News](#)

[Prayers](#)

[Notices](#)

### **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**

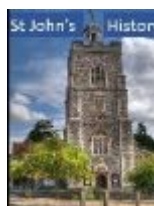
Email: [abradford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abradford@hotmail.co.uk)  
Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847 672599

### **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.

*The Cox Family*

*In the middle of the central aisle of the nave you will find the gravestone of Richard Henry Cox (1779-1863). He was part of the Cox banking family and the grandson of Richard Cox, founder of the travel company Cox & Kings. Also buried with him are his wife, his sister Charlotte and his daughter who were all named Charlotte!*

*In 1810 he purchased Hillingdon House (the large white house in St Andrews Park).*

*He had 4 sons and 3 daughters and his eldest daughter Emily married Sir Charles Mills (who lived at Hillingdon Court) thus the 2 powerful and influential families of Hillingdon were joined by marriage. In 1840 or thereabouts a fire took hold at Hillingdon House on a Sunday morning, and some church members walking nearby on their way to church saw the flames.*

*The Vicar on hearing the news, decided not to hold the service that morning and the congregation were encouraged to go and help. It would seem that the house was beyond repair and the house was completely rebuilt and finished in 1844.*

*On the last pillar of the North Aisle is a brass plaque in memory of Sir Charles Cox, who was the second son of Richard Henry Cox. He is buried in the churchyard along with other members of the Cox family. The tomb is very large and made of polished grey granite. Unfortunately it lies underneath a large irish yew tree so it is constantly covered in pine needles and in the autumn red berries. It looks so nice when it is swept clean but it doesn't stay clear for very long. John Kellaway who was butler to Richard Henry Cox for 34 years has a small modest grave stone alongside the family tomb.*

*In the 1881 census, the following staff were employed by the Cox family: 1 butler, 1 under butler, 4 footmen, 1 usher, 1 coachman, 1 under coachman, 1 groom, 2 stablemen, 1 servant, 1 housekeeper, 2 laundrymaids, 3 housemaids, 1 stillroom maid, 1 cook, 3 kitchen maids and 3 ladies maids.*

*Other information that we can glean from the census is that the occupations of most men in the family was "army agent". An army agent did everything for army officers not within the official remit of the army: for example they supplied or arranged for the supply of all kinds of personal goods, from new uniforms to furniture to books, trophies, even engagements rings! Christine Bartlett*





### **Reading for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

**Theme: Good Arguments for God's Existence; Fine Tuning**

**Reading: Genesis 1:1-5 & 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>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.

### **Reading for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

**Theme: Good Arguments for God's Existence- Very Fine Tuning!**

**Reading: Psalm 139: 7-18**

- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
- <sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
- <sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.



### 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!

22nd October: **Genesis 1:1-5 & 14-19** Good Arguments for God's Existence-Fine Tuning!

29th October: **Psalms 139:7-18** Good Arguments for God's Existence- Very Fine Tuning!

**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>



### **Facts about the impact of fast fashion on our climate from Oxfam**

#### **Fast fashion pollution**

Fast fashion relies on cheap, disposable clothing that is produced quickly and sold at low prices, encouraging consumers to buy and discard clothing at an alarming rate. As a result, landfills are overflowing with discarded clothing, and textile waste is piling up.

The pollution caused by fast fashion is an issue that requires urgent attention, and consumers can play an important role in driving change by supporting sustainable and ethical fashion brands, choosing high-quality clothing that lasts longer, and recycling or repurposing clothing when it is no longer needed.

#### **A path towards a greener future**

Fast fashion is big business, but experts are suggesting that there is a better way forward: a circular economy for textiles. By implementing a circular approach, we can reduce the amount of waste generated, decrease our reliance on virgin materials, and ultimately mitigate the fashion industry's environmental footprint. With greater investment in sustainable practices, the fashion industry can play a positive role in creating a more sustainable future.





I have included two links about mending and repair which are inspirational and interesting visually. One is a link to the Japanese method of upcycling using the art of sashiko and the other is an art installation called the Mending Project the Venice Biennale. *Chris Rodrigues*

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20231013-the-300-year-old-japanese-method-of-upcycling>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHM2UtM9LP>



**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,** Shirley Phillips, Kate Weller, Grace Birt, Connor Matthews, Elizabeth Sands, Beryl Burrows, Kim Rogers, Susan Blackstone, Peter Heyes

**Shirley Phillips Funeral will take place at St. John's on Monday 23rd October 2023 at 12noon.**

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

**For all those attending** our Alpha Course and upcoming PCC meeting.

**NOTICES**



We have decided that each church key set should be numbered. This will help us to identify the owner of the keys if they are located in and around the church.

Roy has purchased some metal numbered keyrings and Nikki has been busy allocating key numbers to each key holder.

You may hold church keys but have been thinking for a while do I need these keys?

The question to help you answer this is:

***How many times have you used the church keys in the last 6 months?***

If the answer is 0-5 times then we feel the answer would be no you do not need the church keys.

If you still want/need keys because you help out with a specific event for a period of time then we can issue you/sign out a set of keys for that time or event and you can return/sign back in the keys after the event.

Most of us have items in our house that we do not use that often, so we place them in a safe memorable place. However, when we need them that safe memorable place is not so safe or memorable! This can be a very stressful time where we are frantically tipping out drawers and cupboards. If the item does not belong to us then this can make the situation worse. Quite often they are in the first place you looked but because of the frantic state you could not see them..

We hope that by having the option to only have keys when you need them might help you.

We would like to ask all key holders even if you only have keys for storage areas to come in and see Nikki on Thursday 19th October or Wednesday 25th October during her working hours 9am-1pm to review what keys you have and receive your key number.

If you are unable to make a weekday due to work or other commitments then Nikki has kindly said that she would be available after the church service on Sunday 22nd October.



On Saturday 7th October 2023 St John's hosted our second Tearfund Big Quiz night. We are delighted to announce that the event was a great success and we raised a total of £215.20 for Tearfund.

Big Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible and those who took part on the day and donated so generously.



Thank you to everyone who donated to our chosen Charities for our Harvest Service which took place on Sunday 24th November 2023.

The totals raised were:

Water Aid £128.50

Foodbank £128.50 & kind donations of non perishable food.



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



#### Cleaning St John's

A huge THANK YOU to those who came to clean on Saturday 14th October. We were delighted to see so many people and managed to clean so much!

The next big clean will be taking place on 18th November 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 18th 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.



Thank you to everyone who came and supported with the church cleaning.



#### **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://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.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 22nd**- 10:30am Service

**Monday** - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, 12noon Funeral Service, 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, 7:30pm PCC Meeting.

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

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

**Sunday 29th** - 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, 12noon Words & Music Service, 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

**[Click here](#) for pdf file of this edition**

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

