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## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 133 Sun Sunday 19th November - Sat 2nd December 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>

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I am writing this having returned from our Remembrance Service in church this morning. I always find it a very moving service, as we think of those who have fought in various wars to enable us all

to live the lives we all currently enjoy. Last night, we watched the Festival of Remembrance from the Royal Albert Hall. I always find it profoundly poignant – especially when the poppies fall from the ceiling during the two minutes of silence towards the end of the Festival. I always think of my great uncle, Richard Matthews, who was killed in the diversionary attack on Gommecourt Wood, during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. His body was never recovered and his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. The Memorial carries the 72,337 names of missing British and South African servicemen who died in the Battles of the Somme between 1915 and 1918, and have no known grave. Richard was only 19 years old when he died along with all those other young men. It is a reminder that in war there are rarely winners, but losses on all sides of the conflicts. If only we could all remember what Jesus was at pains to remind us – love your neighbour as yourselves, how much better the world would be.

The 12th November is also the final day of the Diwali celebrations and our evening has been punctuated with the sound of bangs (some very loud!) and fireworks as they celebrate this festival of light triumphing over darkness. Something that we believe in our own faith was achieved by Jesus dying and rising for us all.

We are, of course, now firmly in the season of autumn, with winter not too far ahead of us. We have been quite lucky this autumn so far, as we had a lot of sunny days in October – so many in fact that there was a delay in the trees changing colour. I always love it when the leaves turn to russet, gold and yellow before the wind and rain cause them to drop leaving the branches bare for winter, but ready to blossom again in the spring and remind us of new birth and growth. As was said on Countryfile this evening – autumn gives us the chance to wrap up warm and enjoy the delights of nature. There is sometimes nothing nicer than going out on a bright autumn day (well wrapped up against the often chilly winds) and just enjoying the beauty all around us.

We had a week away in Tenerife in mid September – with lots of sunshine and beautiful sunrises (the sun didn't come up until about 8am); another reminder of God and his amazing creation, as we watched the sun coming up over the mountains and flooding the sky with glorious colours. In the villa we were renting there were two small paintings of flowers – one bearing this message – “A mind must be open to bloom” and the other “Every day consists of at least one small miracle”. I was so taken with the truth of these two sayings that I took a photograph of the paintings to remind me. I particularly like the second one, because we often overlook the small miracles that happen around us – like the leaves on the trees when they change their colour, or the sun bursting forth and lighting a dark sky. A wonderful thought to carry with us on our daily lives. Maybe we should all start looking for that small miracle every day and, as a result, look at the world around us in a different and more positive way. *Carol*

*Loving father,*

*we thank you for the beauty of the world you have created for us.*

*Help us to cherish it,*

*to appreciate the wonder and miracle of it,*

*and to preserve it for the future.*

AMEN



### **The Greatest gift of all is love**

I wanted to share a recent encounter that I had with my friend Linda.

It was her birthday at the beginning of October and she had to go into hospital for an operation but I did not know how serious at the time. When I gave her a call it happened to be only 3 days after her stay in hospital where she had been in intensive care. The timing of this call meant that I could

speak to her at home and listen to her voice and experience through her an encounter with God's love.

Linda said that she had felt the love of God was with her and working through her throughout the whole experience. She felt that love and care was there in all the staff and also between the other patients around her. When someone, a fellow patient, needed attention they helped each other to contact a member of staff.

Linda has always been very caring and taken care of her family and husband Ivan. They are both very committed to their faith and church community in Devon.

The operation has given her no choice but to stop and rest and she felt that this is what God needs her to do, to allow others to care for her and also give her time to listen to God. Linda said that she feels now that there is something that she has been asked to do to help with her church community.

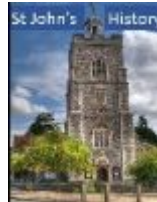
Our conversation on the phone was a God given moment and I felt blessed to listen and talk.

Linda said that we all need to know that God loves each one of us and he wants us to care and love each other and live our lives as Jesus led us to live.

Afterwards I could feel that God was working in me too and I felt confirmation in some of the things that are important to me in my life. Worship songs often help me out with my faith and these are the words that came to me after the call.

*Chris Rodrigues*

*A new commandment I give unto you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love one for another;  
by this shall all know that you are my disciples:  
if you have love one for another.*



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.

### **Tenuous link between a famous horserace and St John's!**

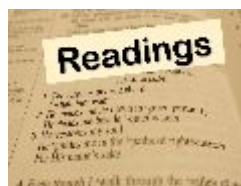
The brass by the altar rail in the Chancel shows a man in a suit of armour with chains around his neck. It is in memory of Henry Stanley who died in 1528. Henry's father was the second Earl of Derby. The Earls of Derby were and have been ever since one of the prominent wealthy landowning families in England. Henry is the great grandson of John and Jane L'Estrange whose brass is opposite the cafe area in church.

Henry died at the Manor House of Colham, although this was probably not the family's main residence This house once stood at Patcott field which was about one mile north of the bridge at Longford which crossed the River Colne.

The brass was originally on the floor of the chancel and in 1893 the 13 th Earl of Derby paid for it to be moved.

And finally, here is a bit of trivia for you. In the 18th century, the 12th Earl of Derby and Sir Charles Bunbury (the president of the Jockey Club) decided to hold a horse race. They spun a coin as to whether the race should be called the Derby Stakes or the Bunbury Stakes. The Earl

won! *Christine Bartlett*



### **Reading for Sunday 19th November 2023**

#### **Theme: Miracles- We Have Enough!**

#### **Reading: Matthew 14:13-21**

- <sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.
- <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
- <sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."
- <sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."
- <sup>17</sup> "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.
- <sup>18</sup> "Bring them here to me," he said.
- <sup>19</sup> And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.
- <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
- <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### **Reading for Sunday 26th November 2023**

#### **Theme: Blessed are The Persecuted**

#### **Reading: Matthew 5:1-12**

- <sup>5</sup> Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,
- <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them, saying:
- <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.
- <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



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

Our Autumn Term is coming to a close we focused on 3 main 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 the coming weeks are:**

Sunday 5th November- **Matthew6: 5-15** - Teach us to Pray

Sunday 12th November 10am- **John15:1-12**- Remembrance: God Empowered Living

Sunday 12th November 11:10am - **John15: 9-17**- Remembrance: Greater Love

Sunday 19th November- **Matthew14: 13-21**- Miracles- We Have Enough!

Sunday 26th November -**Matthew5: 1-12** Blessed are the Persecuted.



Please see below for the prayer that we all contributed to during Matt's preaching on Sunday 5th November 2023.

***Father God Almighty,***

*we love you for your Majesty.*

*We are truly sorry for our thoughtless actions and deeds.*

*We ask for you to share your wisdom with us and grant us healing, peace and the ability to forgive, however hard it may be.*

*We promise to listen for you. We will sacrifice for others and accept your desire for us.*

*Thank you, God for the joy of your love. **Amen***



### **Invitation to hear more about A Rocha's Big Green Vision**

Join Andy Atkins (A Rocha UK Chief Executive) at an online event on Tuesday 21 November from 2pm - 3pm to hear more about A Rocha UK's Big Green Vision.

In 2021 A Rocha launched a vision and strategy for our work over the next five years. A Rocha have been very encouraged so far to see what God has enabled us to do, but there is much more that can be achieved together to protect, nurture and restore God's creation.

**Register via Eventbrite** [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hear-more-about-our-big-green-vision-tickets-715395837207?aff=oddtcreator), or visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hear-more-about-our-big-green-vision-tickets-715395837207?aff=oddtcreator>



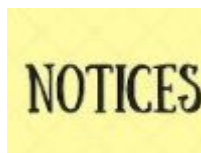
### **Please include in your prayers;**

**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 John Gibson who recently went to be with God  
The Funeral of John Gibson will be held at St. John's on Tuesday 28th November at 10:30am.

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

**For all those attending** our Alpha event.



**ALL STARS is back for a Children In Need Special!**

**When:** Friday 17th November 2023

**Where:** St. John's

**Time:** 3:30pm-4pm Start



**Who:** Children of any age with Parent or Care giver

**What:** Fun, Activities, Fund Raising, Music, Games and a nutritious Hot Meal!

At the **ALL STARS** event we will be raising money for Children In Need. The children will take part in 30 or more activities skill challenges, games, faith builders, songs, drama and thinking skills. these will be fun and challenging to build confidence, communication and expression.

If you would like to sponsor a child please pick up a sponsor form from the back of church. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a child so far.



### **Hearing Loop Reception**

Roy Munday and Ray Pearce have kindly been testing our hearing loop system. The hearing loop helps those who wear hearing aids. Roy has pulled together a hearing loop reception map to help show the best places to sit for Good, Limited and also identifies where there is no reception in the church.

Three copies of this map are up in church, two on either side of the main aisle at the back of church and one on the main notice board inside church.



### **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 for your support with the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for Children.

I dropped off 26 boxes in total on Monday and we had 12 boxes which were completed online so a total of 38 Children will receive a wonderful gift filled with love this Christmas. *Nikki*



Thank you to everyone who supported this amazing event at St John's. The Christmas Craft Fair raised approximately £650 for St. John's ! Which is fantastic for our first craft fair.



**Sunday 3rd December** 10:30am- Advent Sunday.

**Sunday 10th December** 4pm - Carols for All. (There will be no other services on this day)

**Friday 15th December** 10am 'Let's Go' Under 5's and care giver fun.(Booking required)

**Sunday 17th December** 10:30am Journey to Christmas.

**Friday 22nd December** 6:30pm Christingle Making.

**Sunday 24th December:** 3:30pm & 5:30pm Christingle Service.

11:30pm Midnight Holy Communion.

**Monday 25th December** 10:30 Christmas Day Service.

*Other events will be taking place over Christmas please do look out for them in the Link or on posters in church.*







### **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 19th**- 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, 10am Church Hire, 12noon Words and Music, 1pm Knitting.

**Thursday** - 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon Jazz, 7:30pm PCC Meeting.

**Friday** - 9:15am Private Prayer, 10am Let's Go, 12noon Jazz.

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

**Sunday 26th** - 10:30am Service.

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

**Tuesday** - 9:15am Private Prayer, 10:30am Funeral, 12noon Jazz, 7:30pm Accordion Band.

**Wednesday** - 9:15am Nikki Office, 12noon Words & Music Service, 1pm Knitting.

**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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