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## The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 136 Sun Sunday 14th January- Saturday 3rd February 2024  
Registered Charity 1128058

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**Church Wardens:**

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**Roy Munday** Text/Phone 07711 278498

**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>

**Safeguarding Officer: Richard Bell**

Email: [info@shieldsmore.co.uk](mailto:info@shieldsmore.co.uk)

Text/Phone: 07934 871538

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



**20 + C + M + B + 24**

Yes, it's that time of year when you might see the letters '**C+M+B**' with numbers either side of it above a door.

Some people stick or chalk this number and letter combination above or at the side of their doors at Epiphany, early in the new year, and keep it up for the whole year.

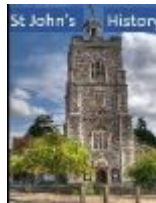
The numbers are for the year that has just started, so now we are in 2024, the numbers for this year are 20 and 24, so look out to see **20+C+M+B+24**.

This is something we have done each year for many years, and you'll see this by our front door. It is something that lasts the whole year, but is rewritten each Epiphany.

At Epiphany, we remember the Wise Men visiting Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Their names are thought to be Casper, Melchior and Balthazar. The letters C, M, and B represent their initials, but these letters also stand for '**Christus Mansionem Benedicat**' which means '**Christ Bless this House**'.

We put this by our doors as a prayer, so that when we see it, we remember to pray. Our prayer is to ask God to bless our room or our home, to fill this place with his peace, to bless our goings out and our comings in, and to bless our conversations in this place. It is also a prayer asking God to bless others through us as we go out from our home or as we welcome others in to our home.

So join us this year with 20+C+M+B+24. As we pray, 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat' in 2024, may Christ bless each of our homes every day of this year. May we be a blessing to others, and may the peace of Christ fill our hearts and our homes throughout this new year. Anne xx



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.

Hillingdon History -Drew Saunders

Near the coffee table at the back of church is a large piece of stone mounted on the wall with brass figures attached. The inscription is as follows:

*Here lyeth Drew Saunders Gentleman sumtyme of the right worshipful company of the merchants of the staple of England and was buried on 4 of April 1579.*

There is also a figure brass of a lady, presumably Mrs Saunders, plus 2 children.

The "merchants of the staple" that are referred to in the inscription were incorporated by Royal Charter in 1319 and dealt in wool, skins, lead and tin. The organisation was formed to control imports and it also meant that tax could be charged by the Crown. In the 14th century the staple transactions took place in Westminster but in 1378 a new establishment was set up at Staple Inn in High Holborn. This building survived the Great Fire of London and was bombed in World War 2 and amazingly is

still standing!

We know a little bit about Drew Saunders. He lived at Moorcroft (by MerrimansCorner). The house would not have been as we know it today, in Drew Saunder's day it would have been a vernacular farmhouse and formed part of the extensive estate owned by the Manors of Colham and Hillingdon. Over the centuries, the house has been enlarged and extended and is now I believe a mix of flats and a school.

Next time you drive or walk past Moorcroft, take a moment to think what it was like for Drew Saunders and his family living there in the 16th century. No mod cons for them! *Christine Bartlett*



**Readings for Sunday 14th January 2024**  
**Theme: Take the High Road- Love**  
**Reading: Mark 1:1-11 & Matthew 22:34-40**

- <sup>1</sup> The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- <sup>2</sup> It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—
- <sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "
- <sup>4</sup> And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.
- <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.
- <sup>8</sup> I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."
- <sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan.
- <sup>10</sup> As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.
- <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

- <sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.
- <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:
- <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
- <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
- <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.
- <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’
- <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**Readings for Sunday 21st January 2024**  
**Theme: Take the High Road- Grow**  
**Readings: Mark 1:12-20, Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23.**

- <sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,
- <sup>13</sup> and he was in the desert for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.
- <sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.
- <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”
- <sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.
- <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”
- <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.
- <sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.
- <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

- <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.
- <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed.
- <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.
- <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.
- <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.
- <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.
- <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.
- <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear.”

<sup>18</sup> “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

- <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.
- <sup>20</sup> The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.  
22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.  
23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

### **Readings for Sunday 28th January 2024**

**Theme: Take the High Road- Baptise**

**Reading: Romans 6:1-11**

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase?  
2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?  
3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?  
4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.  
5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.  
6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—  
7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.  
8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.  
9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.  
10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.



**We are of the earth ,we are nature, created by God. It is our path to live and care for all life on earth, the care of creation.**

The new year has begun. There has been much turmoil and disruption in the world. Many people have suffered from man's many conflicts and changes in climate. Our actions on the earth have changed habitats and weather patterns. .Many people have experienced sickness and health concerns.

Lets make the new year a time to reflect upon how we are living our lives and how we would wish it to be. Can we make a change, however small, to help ourselves and each other. We may not have the power to make dramatic changes but as a community we can take action through prayer and putting time aside to meditate on the issues affecting our world and be with God.



This is a picture of a dear friend, Elizabeth, who passed away in October aged 97. Its a picture of a wise and intelligent lady who had a strong faith. Elizabeth is in a setting that reflects our connection to the wild life around us and connection with family ,with her son Kris.

**Thinking of our wildlife** Look after the birds now winter is here.

Provide water in a bird bath or any suitable container, birds need to drink and bathe every day. Check water is not frozen. Know your birds. Different species eat different things. Sparrows and finches like seeds; tits like fat; and thrushes and robins like fruit and worms. Starlings will eat just about anything. Take care if you have a pet food such as dried fruit is poisonous for them. Check the RSPB for ideas in the garden in winter.

**Make a bird food cake with:**

□ 1/3 cup sunflower seeds, niger seeds, grated cheese 1/2 cup dried fruit, soaked overnight 1/2 cup unsalted peanuts 1 cup lard or beef suet Hanging bird feeder(s) suitable for fat balls Chop nuts and fruit finely, stir thoroughly into the dry ingredients until combined. Melt your suet or lard in a saucepan over a low heat. Remove from the heat and stir in your dry ingredients a little at a time. Divide the mixture into portions the size of your hanging bird feeder. Mould into tightly packed balls to fit the feeder. Place on a tray covered with greaseproof paper. Once cooled, refrigerate overnight.



## St John's Prayer

***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***



**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 those that are in need** Brenda & Ken Hogg, Beryl Rowles, Marigold Marsh, Bill White, Gervase Craven, Amer Peters and his family, Joyce & Hughie Marshall.

Brenda's Funeral service will be held at St John's on Friday 12th January 2024 at 12:15pm

# NOTICES



## Cleaning St John's

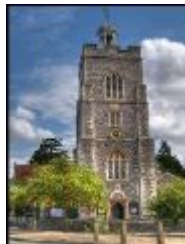
The next big clean will take place on 13th January at 9:30am all cleaning supplies will be provided.

**If you would like to help but are unable to attend on 13th and have some free time during the week please contact Nikki**

or use the laminate sheet in the kitchen to look at what area/s may need some attention (Please do record what area you clean so that others are aware)



Please click [Here](#) for the January/February 2024 Edition of Hillingdon People and find out what has been happening in the Borough and what might be available for you.



## 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 14th-** 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 7:30pm Alpha Group.

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

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

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



**Sunday 21st** - 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 & Music Service, 1pm Knitting.

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

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

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

**Sunday 28th** - 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 & Music Service, 1pm Knitting.

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

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

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**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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