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# The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 141 Sun Sunday 7th April - Saturday 20th April 2024  
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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)  
Phone: 07972 618584

### **Vicar: Alan Bradford**

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

### **Church Wardens:**

**Rick Williams** Phone: 01895 232 888  
**Roy Munday** Phone: 07711 278498

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

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



It is Easter Monday as I write this blog, and the sun is shining (the forecast showers have so far not arrived). The spring flowers are out and there is the feeling of warmer days just around the corner. It was wonderful being in church for Easter Sunday morning, and seeing it packed with people who had come to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and all that it means for us. It was a truly

joyous occasion.

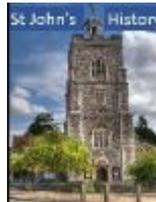
Last month we met up with our niece in Covent Garden and decided, before we went off to lunch, that we would go and visit St Paul's, Covent Garden (also known as The Actors' Church) – a place we have seen many times from the outside when we have been up in London, but which we have never visited before. The church is small, but a gem by the architect Inigo Jones. Construction started on the church in 1631, and it was consecrated in 1633. The entrance is not in the Covent Garden Piazza but via the gardens (a lovely quiet space which belies its situation in busy Covent Garden). The rather splendid portico which fronts onto the Piazza was originally intended to be the entrance, but this would not have been in accordance with Christian tradition that (in nearly all churches) the Altar is placed so that the congregation face east – towards Jerusalem; the site of Jesus' death and, as we have just been celebrating this past weekend, his Resurrection. As a result the church was "turned around" so to speak and the "door" on the Portico is a false one. The great George Bernard Shaw set the opening scene of Pygmalion - the play on which the musical My Fair Lady is based - under the Portico. It is the place where Eliza Doolittle first meets Professor Higgins. I am sure many passers by believe that will be the way into the church, rather than venturing around the side and into the gardens. Today, the church continues to honour its theatrical traditions by having an in-house professional theatre company who put on productions throughout the year.

Once inside the church there are many things of interest – but what fascinated me most was the "Theatrical Memorials" – plaques on the walls in memory of actors both old and new. I particularly liked the memorial to Bernard Cribbens, which ends with the words "I'd rather be fishing" and the one to Diana Rigg which states "First Appearance 1938, Called to Rehearsal 2020". I also discovered that W S Gilbert (of Gilbert and Sullivan fame) was baptised in the church, as were the painter JMW Turner, and Thomas Arne, who composed Rule Britannia.

As I mentioned, the gardens are beautiful and serene, and the burial ground of many hundreds of people – including some who lost their lives in the Great Plague of London in 1665. but the most striking thing we found there was a wonderful statue of St Paul. It is a life size sculpture and depicts the moment that St. Paul was struck by the light which blinded him on his road to Damascus. As we know, that resulted in St Paul becoming a Christian and spreading the news of Jesus and his death to save us all, and provide us with the hope of eternal life with our Heavenly Father.

So if you happen to be in the Covent Garden area, and have never visited St Paul's Church, I can recommend it – for a small building it is full of interesting things, but at the heart it is a reminder that we can find God everywhere – even in the midst of a busy London tourist site. It is also a place where you can find a "still, small voice of calm" when there is hustle and bustle around you. Sometimes we do forget to just stop, take a breath, and appreciate everything God has given us from the Spring flowers and blue skies, to the talent of architects such as Inigo Jones, and of all those remembered through the memorials in The Actors' Church. This Eastertide let's try to spend a little time thanking God for all the things he has provided for us. **Carol**

***Loving Father, I pray for a heart that seeks after you and your Word daily. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." – Psalm 119:105***



We are continuing our tour of St. Johns after looking at our brasses we are now looking at the gravestones set into the floor at St John's.

The next point of interest on our tour is a large black gravestone to mark the burial place of Anne Lukyn which is just in front of the Toddler Corner in the North Aisle. When you consider that this gravestone has been in situ for nearly 400 years with people walking over it, it really is quite amazing that it can still be read.

Anne was the wife of Roger Lukyn from Iselham in Cambridgeshire. When Anne died in 1643, Hillingdon was a hotbed of activity due to the English Civil War (1642-1651) between Parliamentarians ("Roundheads") and Royalists ("Cavaliers"), mainly over the system of government and issues of religious freedom.

Many church buildings were caught up in the fighting during the English civil war as they were one of the few solid built structures in small settlements which of course provided huge military potential. Church towers provided the perfect look out to observe the surrounding area, and also to fire down on enemy positions. Churchyards being surrounded by stone walls were also useful if troops were under attack.

From 1642, Uxbridge was a Parliamentary garrison. Throughout the civil war it would have been a frequent sight to see troops marching to and from Uxbridge past St John's. On August 10<sup>th</sup> 1642, 30 roundheads entered St John's, destroyed the altar rail, stole a white linen vestment which one of the soldiers wore as they continued their march into Uxbridge! Legend has it that Oliver Cromwell himself spent the night at Cedar House opposite St John's and we do know for certain that his grandson Richard Russell lived there for a time.

In 1645, Uxbridge was chosen to hold peace talks which were held at Place House - part of which survives as The Crown and Treaty Public House. Hillingdon Borough Council have a very interesting section on their website about Uxbridge in the Civil War, do take a look at it if you have a few minutes.



### Reading for Sunday 7th April 2024

Theme: Victory! Revelation of The Victory.

Reading: Luke 24: 13-49

- <sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.
- <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.
- <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;
- <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognising him.
- <sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.
- <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"
- <sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.
- <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;
- <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.
- <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning
- <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.
- <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."
- <sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
- <sup>26</sup> Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"
- <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.
- <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going further.

29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight.

32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together

34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses of these things.

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

**Reading for Sunday 14th April 2024**

**Theme: Victory! Believing & Seeing**

**Reading: : John 20:19-31**

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus

came.

<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

<sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



## **APRIL**

A time to think of the warmer days to come and how all life becomes more active.

**Keeping fit**, use the body that we have to keep moving. Sitting can be bad for our health, our bodies have been designed for movement. Our skeleton is an amazing structure made up of about 206 bones. When you move your shoulder, it is not just your shoulder that moves. As you move, arm or hand you can place your fingertips on your collar bone, lower arm or thumb joint. Become aware of the movement and how one part of the body links to another and be in awe of the body that you inhabit and been given.

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. Re-evaluate your journeys: explore walking or cycling options, or modify your route to include some form of active travel, i.e. disembark a stop early and complete the remaining part of your journey on foot, indulge in a leisurely stroll, or opt for a bike ride along a cyclist-friendly route. Consider connecting with your local Ramblers or cycling group for shared experiences. Use the extra steps or the changed travel arrangements as a prompt to pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuel usage

## **Spring Walks**

Last year I led two local walks, one to discover the wild flowers that grow close to us in the local park and the other taking a look at the trees in the churchyard.

I am thinking of arranging another couple of walks for this year to discover the wild flowers that grow nearby:

-A Wildflower walk around Coney Green and the church boundary or local paths  
and

-A walk to visit the Grove nature reserve which could be coupled with a walking part of the Celandine walk. Watch this space for dates and times, in May. Chris

**EARTH DAY 2024**

**Willesden Eco Church Pilgrimage by Bike**

**Join with Bishop Lusa**

**22<sup>nd</sup> April**

		Arrive
St Anselm Belmont	HA7 2HJ	8am
St Mary Harrow on the Hill	HA3 3PH	9.40
St Andrew's	UB10 0AE	10.55
St John the Baptist	UB8 3QP	11.25
St George's	UB1 1NP	12.05
St Mary's Harwell	W7 3BJ	12.40
Lunch pause		
St Melitus Harwell	W7 2BA	1.15
St John West Ealing	W13 9LA	1.40
St Paul's	W13 9XW	2.05
St Mary's	W5 5RH	2.30
St Stephen's	W13 8HB	3.00
St Barnabas	W5 1QG	3.25

### Willesden Pilgrimage of Prayer 2023-2024

Bishop Lusa's focus for pilgrimages in 2023-24 is around the Ambitions and Priorities of the 2030 Vision.

He recently cycled to 4 foodbanks hosted by Willesden churches, and then walked from Southall to Hounslow with clergy on the theme of Creative growth and new worshipping communities. Our next visit for our ambition of Compassionate Communities will be about Creation Care.

#### On Monday 22nd April 2024

Bishop Lusa will be cycling to all of Willesden Eco Church Silver award churches as below. He will be attending St. John's at 11:25am on 22nd April 2024

***We would love to see those that wish to help welcome Bishop Lusa to St. Johns and for any cyclists to join them for part or all of the day.***



#### **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** Beryl Rowles, Bill & Linda White, Gervase Craven, Ken Buckler, Joyce & Hughie Marshall.

**For the family and friends** of our dear Marigold Marsh who went to be with God on Thursday 28th March 2024.

**Marigold's Funeral Service will be held at St John's on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 10:45am.**

**For our PCC** who will be meeting on Thursday 18th April 2024

# NOTICES



## Cleaning St John's

The next big clean will take place on 13th April 2024 at 9:30am all cleaning supplies will be provided.

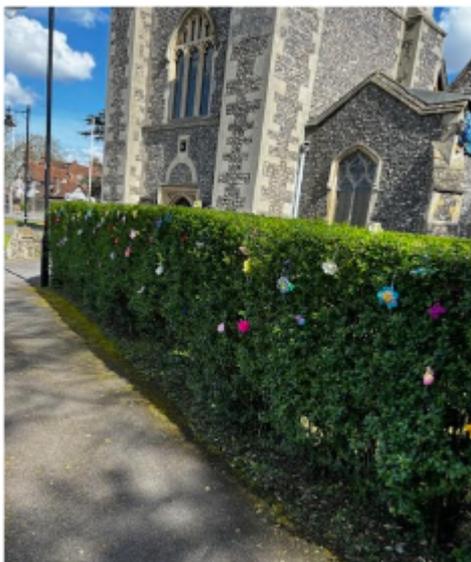
**If you would like to help but are unable to attend on 13th and have some free time during the week please contact Nikki**

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)



## EASTER PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who made our beautiful creations this year and those that helped put them out on Easter Saturday. We had well over 1,500 items this year. All beautiful and unique. It was wonderful to see them all on the hedges. We have also received some fantastic positive responses from our local community and beyond. Without your support this would not have been possible so thank you all.





We are delighted to share that St. John's will once again be opening up on Thursday 2nd May to be used for the GLA Elections.



This year our Annual General Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM/APCM) will take place on **Sunday 12th May 2024 at 10:30am** in church.

This is a chance for us to look back at 2023 and look forward to 2024 along with the election of Churchwardens, PCC Members. Application Forms for all the roles will be available at the back of church. If you have never been on the PCC before and have questions please speak to Nikki, Rick or Roy.

All are invited to attend the AGM/APCM but only those on the Electoral Roll can vote. The Electoral Roll is now being revised by Nikki (The Electoral Roll officer) until 26th April 2024 after this date the Electoral Roll will be placed on the notice board prior to the meeting on 12th May 2024. If you have been worshipping with us for more than 6 months, not sure if you have been added or live locally please let Nikki know or fill in a pink Electoral Roll Form at the back of church.



For the next few weeks we need your support. Please could we ask you to add one or two extra non perishable items to your weekly shop.

We will have a plastic box available as you come into church for you to drop off your donations.

**Items we are asking for are:**

Canned/tinned goods, Jars of cooking sauces, Pasta, Rice, long life milk, juice, biscuits etc

Thank you very much any support you can give will be greatly appreciated.



Please take a look at a new piece of Art that Chris Rodrigues has placed in the church by the coffee area. These pieces here were included in an exhibition with Hillingdon Artists at Uxbridge Library. Each person created a art work on 12x12 canvas

They are titled:

**The Tree of Life**

**Green Canopy**

**Forest Floor**

**Natures Web**

They reflect our connection with nature and trees.



To view the latest Edition (March/April) of the Hillingdon People Magazine please [Click Here](#)



If anyone would like to attend this event please could you email Nikki in the office or call the office contact number. There may be other folk from local churches that are interested in going. If you book as a group the ticket prices are slightly less.





### 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.



### 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*



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

**Sunday 7th**- 10:30am Service.

**Monday** - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, Private Prayer, 7pm Mandolin Monday, 8pm Bellringing Practice.

**Tuesday** - 9am 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.

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

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

**Sunday 14th** - 10:30am Service.

**Monday** - 9:30am Churchyard Clearing, Private Prayer, 7pm Mandolin Monday Hire, 8pm Bellringing Practice.

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

**Wednesday** - 9:15am Nikki Office, Eco Audit, 10am Church Hire, 12noon Words & Music Service, 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.

### 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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