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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 54 Sun 4th - Sat 10th April 2021
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Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):

Click on the church image above from
Sunday 10am or on

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808>

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St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Welcome to our Holy Week and Easter Edition!

This Holy Week and Easter I'm looking forward to the times we can spend together with one another and with God in The Last Supper Experience on Maundy Thursday evening (8pm, Zoom) followed by The Watch (personal with God), and then on the following day with The Good Friday Service (2pm, Memorial Garden). Then we celebrate the resurrection together on Easter Morning

(10.30am, Zoom) and later in the Memorial Garden (4pm). More details later on in this edition.

It's been lovely seeing all the knitted and crocheted flowers arriving for our Easter project, a beautiful mixture of designs and colours. We are looking forward to seeing them up outside church and for them being an encouragement to those in the local community.

My Questions for you.

As mentioned last week, I am inviting you to send your thoughts via email or in writing to the following questions. If you live locally to the church, please answer all four. If you are a friend and living further afield, or belong to another church, please leave out the first question if that helps.

THANK YOU!

In terms of Church life and our mission:

1. How are you feeling at this time about our life together and mission as St. John's Church?
2. What has started through the pandemic that might continue?
3. What are you learning from what has stopped or started?
4. Any other thoughts you might have as we move into the future and transition towards a 'new normality'.

Living Forever!

What would it be like to know that you can live forever and never die?

How wonderful that would be?

Surely the thought of dying is not a happy one, and one that we can fear?

Living forever would mean we would have endless time to see and do everything we wanted and we could enjoy things again and again. We might feel less rushed or stressed, because we would have an unlimited amount of time to accomplish what we wanted or needed to do.

On the other hand, though, an endless life means growing older and older for all eternity. Things wear down and wear out! Living forever could become a chore, a bore and a burden.

The Easter Story tells us that death has been defeated with eternal life on offer to everyone, because Jesus rose from the dead. We can have a new body that doesn't grow old or wear out. A lot of people dismiss the story of the resurrection, or are ignorant of it, or are even not interested.

I've tried to dismiss the resurrection recently on purpose! I wanted to think like an unbeliever or an atheist. This caused me to look more deeply than ever before at the historical evidence. I've read and heard the evidence of scholars (both Christian and non-Christian), I've listened to arguments put forward by sceptics, I've watched debates and I've gone on the basis that I didn't have a faith. Despite my hardest efforts, I had to come to the conclusion that the resurrection is the only possible explanation. There's just doesn't exist any other plausible explanation. As a result of all of this I am more convinced than ever that the resurrection of Jesus is a fact, and not something that is as a result of just faith. My confidence and faith has been strengthened as a result.

In the historical documents of scripture, we read that Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead. That resurrection was of a different order than **the** resurrection: it was only for a comparatively short time before Lazarus would die a second time. Jesus' resurrection was different as it was, and is, forever! Jesus would never die again and this resurrection has consequences, and in it is the most incredible opportunity for us all everywhere, for the whole human race. "I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Of course we do die, and Jesus wasn't saying that the processes of bodily decay and biology wouldn't apply, but that the spiritual realities behind life and beyond death had been changed for good.

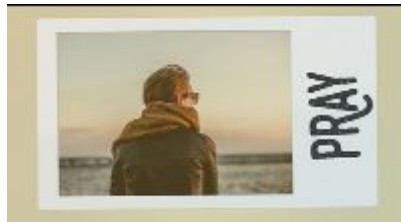
'Death' is the ultimate metaphor for separation from God. What Jesus did in dying and rising was

to remove the separation between us and God, and he bridged the gap between us humans and our maker. We have the promise of an incredible existence in the presence of God where we can enjoy him for ever. Better still, this 'eternal life' begins on this side of the grave, something we can catch glimpses of now and again. We of the faith are presently seated with Christ in heavenly places!

Jesus promised that those who believed in him would never die. When Jesus made the promise to Mary he asked her, "Do you believe this?" She answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." What do you believe?

Happy Easter to you all

In God's love and resurrection power,
Alan



A Prayer and Proclamation for Easter!

Christ is alive, the Conqueror of all our foes, and ours.

Christ is alive, and in his hands are the keys of death and the unseen world.

Christ is alive, and in him we are born again to a living hope and an internal inheritance.

We praise you, O Christ, for your resurrection victory.

We acknowledge you as our living Saviour and Lord.

We rejoiced in the hope of the glory of God. Alleluia!

A Personal Easter Prayer

Lord our God, as we celebrate with joy the resurrection of Jesus our saviour,
help us make the Easter faith a deeper reality in our lives;
that we may know something more of the peace he bequeathed to his disciples,
and lay hold of the victory he won for us over sin and death,
rejoicing in the hope of the life immortal which is ours in him,
our Redeemer and our Lord.



Holy Week & Easter

As we are now in Holy Week and have finished reading the daily reflections from 'Rooted In Love', here are a couple of suggestions for readings and for your times of reflection this week.

This week to read:

Luke chapter 22 verse 1 to chapter 24 verse 49

Read these key verses during the week:

Wednesday = Lk 22: 1 - 13

Maundy Thursday = Lk 22: 14 - 20

later on Maundy Thursday = Lk 22: 39 - 45

Good Friday = Lk 23: 33 - 38 & 44 - 46

Holy Saturday = Lk 23: 50 - 56

Easter Day = Lk 24: 1 - 12

later on Easter Day = Lk 24: 13 - 35

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Reading for Easter Sunday

Luke 24:1-12

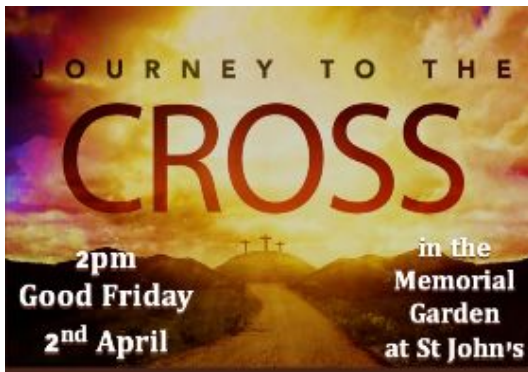
24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"



Good Friday 2nd April -Walk of Witness

If you would like to complete the walk of witness on your own, with your family or in pairs please [CLICK HERE](#) for a PDF of the readings and prayers. Alternatively you may like to read through these at home.



Easter Flower Project

An assortment of just some of the flowers for our Easter Project. they all look amazing! We are looking forward to seeing them up and them being an encouragement to the community. Thank you to everyone involved in the project, Anne xx



Our connection to nature

I recently joined a webinar from the Library of Scotland titled Nature Prescriptions. Nature Prescriptions is a collaboration between RSPB Scotland and NHS Lothian to develop our natural health service. It is inspired by growing evidence that nature makes us healthier and happier.

Connecting with nature can help you:

- Reduce anxiety.
- Improve cardiovascular health.
- Sleep better.
- Improve concentration.
- Improve vitality and mood.
- Increase your life satisfaction and happiness.

The initiative began in the Shetlands and was extended to include an urban environment, in this case Edinburgh, and it is hoped that it will expand further.

Most of the articles in the press recently about connecting with nature were inspired by this project. It is hoped that this project will not just improve our own health but will improve our understanding of biodiversity and how it is endangered.

A survey was carried out and a high percentage of people had no awareness of how nature is endangered by our own activities and the percentage of people involved in action to help was very low. Patients are given a calendar from their GP to help them through the year with ideas for engagement. The nature prescription is an alternative to taking medication and is monitored by doctors. There is also a leaflet for the Edinburgh pilot which can be found via RSPB Scotland. The initiative has grown and 'nature prescriptions' have been offered by local GPs in Southall, using the nature reserve at Wolf Fields, run by A Rocha. *Christine Rodrigues*

"We often forget that **WE ARE NATURE**. Nature is not something separate from us. So when we say that we have lost our connection to nature, we've lost our connection to ourselves." Andy Goldsworthy, Sculptor.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. Genesis 1:11 NIV



Harefield Woods in the Spring



A Tour around the Church Monuments.

As it's Easter Day on Sunday it seems appropriate for me to jump ahead on the church tour to visit the high altar and remind you of our beautiful altar frontal (pictured below). It was installed in 2003 and dedicated to the memory of John Delves, late husband of our dear Peggy.

John and Peggy met when John was a scout master and Peggy was a senior girl guide. They

lived in neighbouring villages in Worcestershire. John was an electrician and they moved to this area due to John's work. After John passed away, Peggy wanted something in church dedicated to his memory, and a new altar frontal was decided upon. A brass plaque with John's name is on the altar rail.

The designer of the altar frontal was Juliet Hemingray who first trained as an Art and Design teacher in Derby in the 1970's. She was unsuccessful in securing a teaching post and spent the next few years mending clothes and making curtains, etc. It was in 1980 that a clergy friend approached her to design an embroidered stole that could be worn at children's services which expressed the Gospel in a lively and colourful way. Inevitably the business began to grow as her skills became recognised. The back room of Juliet's Victorian house was soon bursting at the seams and customers were enthralled by the array of colours in such a small area. Her Aladdin's cave has now transferred to an equally bright setting of an old Victorian railway bonded warehouse. Over the years she has been commissioned to produce 1000's upon 1000's of stoles, altar frontals, banners, copes, mitres, chasubles and other religious regalia.

The altar frontal at St John's is certainly a wonderful visual aid. The rich oranges and reds combined with threads of gold sparkle in the light, and combined with the image of our risen Lord in the stained glass window above, makes any visit to the sanctuary a unique worshipful experience.

Happy Easter!! *Christine Bartlett*



Altar Frontal Designed By Juliet Hemingray Installed in 2003 and dedicated to the Memory of John Delves.



Potato Egg Printing



Recycled Bunny Jar



Bunny Masks Using a Paper Plate.



AGM/APCM

Our Annual General meeting will be taking place on 18th April 2021. This is where we reflect on last year, look at visions for this year and appoint our Churchwardens and members of the PCC. If you would like to find out more about joining the PCC please email or call Nikki.

NOTICES



Every action counts.

Infection rates in the West London area haven't fallen as low as other parts of the capital. It is vital that we all do our bit to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Every action we take will help to keep our borough safe. So please continue to: **Wash you hands, Cover your face, Keep a safe distance, Get tested and Take you vaccination when offered.** #keepHillingdonsafe

Hillingdon People Magazine

Please [Click Here](#) for the latest edition (March/April 2021) of the Hillingdon People Magazine

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.

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Royal Lane

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