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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 57 Sun 25th April - Sat 1st May 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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Email stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com

Text/Phone 07972 618584

Vicar: Alan Bradford

Email abradford@hotmail.co.uk

Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599

St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Dear Church Members and Friends

For those of you who didn't know, we held our Annual General Meeting last Sunday. This included an **important presentation** and discussions on our strategy for **the development of St. John's Church building** going forward. If you missed the meeting please watch the 18minute presentation on this, and **it is important** that all local members of St. John's watch this. [Click here](#)

to watch the pure presentation only, without the questions and responses. If you do not have the internet please watch via a family member or, if not at all possible, please ask whoever delivers The Online Link to you to give you a copy of the minutes and presentation slides in due course. Thank you.

When I went for some exercise in Coney Green on Sunday evening I saw a gentleman on the bench. He was facing the sun and was either sleeping, or just had his eyes closed.

I was going to just walk by when I thought that I should speak with him and so I walked a little nearer him, approaching from an angle. I said, "Hello, how are you doing? Lovely evening isn't it?" No response. I then noticed he had some headphones on. I went to move away, feeling a touch awkward I had tried to converse and failed, but then felt I should try again so I said, "Hi, how are you doing?" I also waved where I thought my hand might get some attention. There wasn't a response again, so I waited for a moment. Then, as I moved to walk away the gentleman turned towards me, smiled and took off his headphones. He then proceeded to talk very enthusiastically about how wonderful it was to walk up the alleyway near the church and see the flowers on each side. He obviously knew I was the vicar, or connected with the church. He kept on saying how much the flowers had meant and how they had warmed his heart.

I continue to be amazed at how much the flower project has touched people and the responses we have seen on social media, and from people chatting personally. Thank you also, church members and friends, for your comments and feedback which has encouraged everyone who made this project possible. The response and encouragement is making us think how we can carry the idea of the project forward.

At the time of writing it has been lovely to enjoy the sunlight and warmth outside. I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy some of the lovely weather too. Keep Covid safe while out and about!

A Poem/Prayer

Light of the World,
you shine for me always,
whether I am strutting my stuff in the footlights,
or caught like a rabbit in the headlights;
when lightning strikes twice in the same place,
or all the lights go out.

Draw me in to your firelight,
search my heart with your candlelight,
may I live in your sunlight,
until every dark place in my soul is illumined by you.
Amen.

Jenny Dyer, Methodist Superintendent, Stoke-on-Trent North Circuit:

Keep safe and keep praying,
Alan

Theme for this week and next:

Sun 25th April: Regeneration Part 1

Sun 2nd May : Regeneration Part 2



Readings

Luke 8:4-8

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: 5 “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.

6 Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Luke 8:11-15

11 “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.



Green Champions

Harefield Hospital Trust has been improving the grounds at Harefield Hospital by planting trees and growing plants in new borders for the patients. Many people have signed up to help. Talks on various aspects of gardening have also been offered online.

A recent talk was about the health of our soil and ways to improve it.

The health of the soil is important for us all in providing us with plants and food. It can take a 100 years for a gram of soil to form but the soil can be quickly destroyed by our actions or extreme weather. It is poorly protected and regulated around the world. We have seen the problems that people have with soil health in many parts of the world where they are unable to grow food and so provide for themselves.

The keyhole garden is a way of growing food when there is not enough land or soil.



A keyhole garden is a round garden bed with a compost pile in the center. The garden has a

notch in the front, so gardeners can easily add to or turn over the pile. Featuring a drainage layer, a soil layer, and a planting area, keyhole gardens combine all the necessities that plants need to thrive.

Keyhole gardens have been made popular by Send a Cow, a humanitarian aid organization that builds keyhole gardens for families throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Three keyhole gardens can supply a large family with all their vegetables for a year.

'A garden to nurture the soil and the family'. A keyhole garden allows a family to grow enough food for three meals a day – even in the face of an extreme climate and poor soil.

These gardens give fantastic results quickly and add nutritious vegetables to provide a balanced diet.

The design of the circular raised bed incorporates a central basket where compostable waste is placed along with used water from the kitchen.

You can find out more information on the Send a Cow website. **Christine Rodrigues**

Psalm 96:12:

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice.



A Tour around the Church Monuments.

The Nicholl Family

I approach the next memorial with a little trepidation as it is the first of 11 memorials in the church to a large extended 18th century local family. I will do my best to explain the connections!!

The Nicholl family lived at Uxbridge Common and were related by marriage to the Beale family of Hillingdon and the Newdegate family of Harefield Place. Inside St John's there are 4 Nicholls memorials, 1 Beale memorial and 6 for Newdegates. For the sake of clarity, and not wishing to cause too much confusion, I shall deal with the Nicholls's in this article and the Beales and Newdegates at a later date!

The large memorial in the Lady Chapel is to Samuel Nicholl and two of his children John and Juliana, who all died from smallpox in the 18th century. John died in 1723 aged 19 and his father a few days later. Juliana died a year later age 24. Samuel's body was buried at Elstree with his ancestors.

In the 18th century 300,000 people died every year in Europe from the smallpox virus. Smallpox is a deadly viral disease that has been around since ancient Egypt. A real breakthrough in fighting the virus came in 1796, when Edward Jenner carried out his famous experiment. He inserted pus extracted from a cowpox pustule on the hand of a milkmaid, into an incision on the arm of an eight-year-old boy, James Phipps. Jenner was testing his theory, drawn from the folklore of the countryside, that milkmaids who suffered the mild disease of cowpox never contracted smallpox. Jenner proved conclusively that contracting cowpox provided immunity against smallpox as well. He was quick to realise the enormous potential of vaccination. The wonders of science!

Samuel Nicholl Junior (John and Juliana's brother) who clearly survived the smallpox outbreak, has a memorial which hangs in the chancel. He was a lawyer at Gray's Inn and was married to Sarah (nee Newdegate) whose memorial is in the south aisle above the L'Estrange brass. Samuel died in 1758 and Sarah died in 1766.

Margaret Nicholl, (died 1741) was the wife of Samuel senior and mother to John, Juliana and Samuel Junior. She is buried in the north aisle, you will have walked over her tomb many times on the way to the vestry or the loo! She was the daughter of Robert Beale, (memorial in the south

aisle), and I will tell you about him later on in the tour.

It is worth reminding ourselves that these folk are buried in vaults under the church floor but in the 1840's reordering and extending, the memorial stones would have been moved from their original location. **Christine Bartlett**



Memorial of Samuel (snr) his wife Margaret and children John and Juliana Nicholl



Samuel Nicholl (Jnr) Memorial



Sarah Nicholl Memorial

NOTICES

The Spear Programme

The Spear programme runs for six weeks (three group sessions and one 1-1 each week) with the aim of getting **young people 'work-ready'** (looking at work-ready skills, resources and mindsets), followed by 12 months of ongoing career coaching and support. It is currently happening all online due to COVID so a Zoom account is needed (free to sign up).

Please [click here](#) to view the flyer or explore the [website](#), which should give you a little bit more info. Also, for a bit of inspiration watch [this video](#) to catch more of a glimpse of the Spear Programme and just how it has helped others in 2020.

To view the timetable which starts on 5th May [Click here](#)

Eligibility:

- 16 – 24 years old
- Not in Work/Education/Training
- Not a graduate (exceptions may be discussed)

If you are interested or know someone who might be

- Send in your/or the name and number of the young person via Email: thembi.miti@spearharrow.org
- Phone **07737 975343** OR **07498 501862** if you have any questions.

Churchyard Benches

The benches in the churchyard have been given a makeover this week. Peter Janssens applied a conditioning garden furniture oil, which has brought them up a treat! Thanks Peter!



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

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Hillingdon Parochial Church Council
St. John's Church
Royal Lane
Uxbridge
UB8 3QP

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Set up a Standing Order with your bank or building society using these details:
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