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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 70 Sun 25th July - Sat 31st July 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



I find myself writing this between two great footballing occasions. The first took place on 11th July and was of course the Euro 2021 final. I hope time has healed the pain for all you England fans! The second is about to take place this Saturday 24th July at the St John's Summer Fayre and whilst excitement hasn't yet reached the levels of the Euros, tension is building as to who will win

the St John's goal scoring challenge! Now, anyone who knows me in the slightest will wonder why on earth I'm writing about anything remotely connected with football. Yes, I did manage to avoid actually watching one moment of the Euro tournament but even I couldn't be unaware of the anticipation and desire to bring home one of football's big prizes.

It was this theme of coming home that struck a chord with me. Last Wednesday evening saw me parked outside Hillingdon station, waiting to pick my eldest son up. He was travelling from his home in Liverpool to pay a much anticipated and desired visit back home to see us all after 11 months. As soon as I started to see people coming off the train, I could contain my excitement no longer and got out of the car and started to walk towards the station entrance, breaking into a run when I actually caught sight of him. However, my youngest son moved out a couple of months ago and despite him only moving a couple of miles up the road, coupled with the fact that I still see lots of him, when I go round to visit him, I still have to resist the urge to run the last few steps to actually be with him again. When I got to be with both of them at the same time last weekend, the image in my mind of our reunion was something like this.



My 'boys' are 29 and 25 and are grateful I'm as restrained as I am but the look on Diana's face sums up how I was feeling!

I feel that being truly at home, is to be with those that you love and who love you, whether that has to be in Liverpool, Hillingdon or even on a royal yacht! When we recognise that, we never stop trying to reach that place. I think that is how God feels about being with us. He never stops trying to connect with us, to make a home with us, despite the barriers we may put in the way. The other image that came to mind when I thought about waiting for my first sight of Thomas off the train, was that much loved (well it's my favourite) parable of the lost son. So there's no misunderstanding, Thomas hadn't spent the last 11 months in debauched living before returning home as his last resort, well that's what he tells me! Once we decide to turn for home, to seek or return to God, we make the struggle of the journey so much easier because God is already there, waiting for us. In fact he's so eager and excited to see us that, like the father in the story, he's already watching out for us. 'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him. (Luke 15:20 NIV). God has done all the hard work in our relationship, he has sent his son Jesus to break down every single barrier that might stop us coming home, even triumphing over death. We just need to stop, turn around and never stop trying to head for home. In these difficult times of travel, we don't even have to leave the house, as God wants to make his home within us.

Even my non-sporting heart recognises the great achievement in reaching a prestigious football final after 55 years of trying. In the aftermath of disappointment, I'm sure Gareth Southgate was telling the players to take pride in what they had achieved, to keep going and one day a victory cup will come home. When life makes us feel as if we've just missed a penalty, remember that because of Jesus, we have an open goal and we can't fail to score. What's more, God is eternally looking out for us and the moment we turn towards him, will be there to fling his arms around us and celebrate that we've come home. **Caroline Reed**



Father God, thank you for never giving up on us. Keep us faithful on the journey, helping us to navigate life's many obstacles and difficulties. May we encourage others to join us on the journey, knowing that you are there waiting to welcome us home. Amen



FAYRE NEWS LATEST!

St John's Summer Fayre will be held this Saturday **24th July** from **1pm**, **The Worshipful the Mayor of Hillingdon, Councillor Roy Chamdal** will be opening the event.

Please [Click here](#) for an image of the Flyer (page 1) so that you can share with Friends and Family.



New Teaching Series Book of Colossians Week 2: Jesus Reigns Supreme (Tempted to leave the fan club?- Hang on in there.) Colossians 1:15- 2:7

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—

26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

2 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.



Here are some more Ideas and suggestions which came from the attendees of the event held on the 26th June at St John's. There were many, this is a further list of 15 for this week. I have selected the actions that we could include at St Johns If you have an idea of your own and perhaps would like to follow up any of these ideas then please do contact Alan or anyone in the group via email or in person.

- Another meeting to concentrate on resources Practical & simple solutions.
- More opportunities for discussion and meet others, with fewer videos please, we can watch these from home.
- How to navigate church bureaucracy.
- Food awareness event (eg plant-based meal)
- Tree planting Practical resources/advice on church yard land.
- Advice on solar panels for church (and how to fundraise)
- Resources for church school engagement (land/worship)
- Link to external, secular, organisations, eg: wildlife trust, beekeepers association, friends of the earth, vegan society, urban farms, centre of climate change innovation (Grantham institute)
- Collaborations and joint events

-Nature walk Eco-festival Church-supporting groups,visiting other churches- Speaker to explain eco-church to Churchwardens/PCC.

- Calendar of events to be shared.

Christine Rodrigues

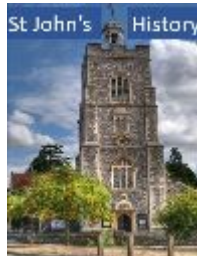


Hands, Face, Space.

Please continue to protect each other.

St John's Services.

- You will no longer need to book to come to services.
- We will still use the one way system on entry and exiting.
- To improve ventilation doors will be left open during services.
- Social distancing in church will continue.
- Please still bring a face mask with you unless you are exempt.
- We will have hand sanitiser available, you can also bring your own.
- We will be cleaning regularly after each service.
- We will not be serving refreshments at the moment.



Poetry Time!

The brass memorial near the café area is to the memory of Anne Wilson. It takes the form of an acrostic poem ie the first letter of each line spells out her name going down which is rather lovely. There is also a separate little plaque which says she died on 13 November 1569. All that we can deduce about Anne from the poem is that she was the daughter of Myles Wilson of Bristow town (which I think refers to Bristol). Here is the poem, I have taken the liberty of updating the spelling to make it easier to read.

An earthly life with earth, on earth, not lead in earthly ways

Now earth in earth does lie asleep till earth from earth arise

Not soul but corpse did yield to death now deadly fury past

Eternal life soul enjoys and fame in death doth last.

What parent or what place of birth, Myles Wilson Bristow town

In pleasant place from worship's race descend the daughter down

Let place give place let parent pass, go fame while brute is rife

Sound once again the trompe of praise, commend her godly life.

Oh praises yield for death and life of her that lives by fame.

Now skies the soul the grave the corpse, this stone contains her name

Acrostic poetry is common in medieval literature, where it usually used to highlight the name of the poet or his patron, or to make a prayer to a saint. We have no other information about Anne

Wilson, not even the name of the person who wrote the poem. When the café area reordering was done this brass was removed very carefully by a monumental brass expert from Wales. He took it back to his workshop and lovingly cleaned it up and mounted it on the wooden plaque which you can see in the photo. This very special memorial is a real gem! **Christine Bartlett**



Anne Wilson Memorial.

The image below of St John's was sent in by Carol and Rick Williams. Its a postcard and depicts St John's church and Hillingdon Village in 1907!



For Stephen Aiton and Kayley Foster as they have their banns read for the first time this Sunday.

Lord, we pray that as Stephen and Kayley make their final preparations for their wedding day, not only will their love for each other grow stronger, but they would become more and more aware of your great love for them. Amen





At St John's we are very fortunate to have a fantastic team of people who work very hard to make sure St John's is at its best all the time.

In particular our **Welcomers, Gardening** and **Cleaning Teams**. I would like to firstly Thank everyone involved in these teams. We always receive such wonderful feedback from visitors and the local community.

If you would like to join one of the teams then please do get in touch with me. We always welcome extra help. *Nikki*

" None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can do small things, with great love and together we can do something wonderful." - *Mother Teresa*

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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