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The Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 80 Sun 31st October - Sat 6th November 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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Text/Phone 07972 618584

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Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk

You will notice that The Online Link is shorter than usual this week. The reason for this is that the 31st October is the 5th Sunday of the month. The fortnightly link will be back to normal next week.



Cedar Tree News

As reported by Mark Hamlin in the last edition of the online link the Cedar tree was booked in to be felled on Tuesday 19th October.

The day arrived with the tree surgeons on site at 8:45am and ready for action with a large blue hydraulic platform (Cherry Picker) and numerous tools to get the job done. Patiently waiting for a further team to arrive. One lane of the Uxbridge road had been due to be closed from 9:30am. Here comes the first of a number of set backs.....

Firstly the 2nd team arriving to help assist with this huge task were slightly delayed due to traffic. Secondly the road closure was delayed due to what I am guessing could only be the traffic.

At around 10:45am the large blue cherry picker made its way on the Uxbridge Road against the traffic safely while the whole road was temporarily closed. It was quite exciting! I was joined by Adrian Morris (who some of you may know) as we watched from afar.

(Adrian arrived to pick up some of the gorgeous Cedar wood as he is looking to make use of this for some projects he has in mind. He has also kindly agreed to create something for us to use in Church.)

In this picture you can see the large blue cherry picker in place and ready to go... or so we thought. I left shortly after to get on with work in the office.

(I might of mentioned this before but I do love my job it's always so entertaining with so much going on! I didn't quite believe Christine when she said she could write a book on her experiences of being a church administrator....It's fair to say that I do now!)



I returned at about 1:15pm. In my mind I expected to see a large unsightly stump! which was not the case as you will see in the picture below. In the distance I could see Mark, Helen and Adrian were watching from the other side. They came to have a chat.

They say that bad luck comes in threes well here is ours... Mark, Helen and Adrian explained the high winds kept causing the large blue cherry picker to cut out and this was delaying the work as each time it cut out one of the 2 guys on the platform kept having to abseil down to try and fix the issue. This happened many times it was amazing to see how fast he abseiled down! I was also amazed by the resilience of the tree surgeons. They were very professional and were still smiling and doing their best in what can only be described as a series of unfortunate events.

In the picture below you can see one guy stranded at the top whilst the others work on trying to fix the issue and get their buddy down safely.



I stayed chatting with Mark, Helen and Adrian for a while. We discussed how we might create seats out of some of the larger pieces to have for a picnic area in the churchyard and various other things!

Adrian had already obtained quite a few pieces of the cedar tree the size of some of the branches were unbelievable.

In this picture you can see the work in progress and just how much had been removed, when the platform was in action.

I went back home to grab some lunch and do a few things and arrived back at church at about 3pm. At this time the team had been defeated. Despite their best efforts the wind had won and a tough decision was made to abandon the work. The road closure was only in place until 3:30pm in any case. I must say with what the team had against them that day they worked so hard and with great spirit to try and get the job done.

They will be back shortly to face the challenge again and we will keep you all posted. Look out for the further news in our online link. **Nikki Bell**



Sunday 31st October.

Elisha Heals Naaman

2Kings5:1-15a

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

2 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said.

5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.

10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"

14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."



St. John's 7th November 2021 COP26 Church Service

On the 7th November 2021 St. John's will be joining Tearfund and other churches for an international climate-themed service. A way for all churches to join in with prayer and worship for climate justice. Get involved with prayer and action by joining us in person by coming to the 9am/10:30am services or by joining us on Zoom at 10:30am.

This November, world leaders will gather in Glasgow for the UN climate talks, COP26. This is a critical moment as decisions will be made that will affect us all - especially those living in poverty who bear the brunt of the climate emergency. The church has a crucial role to play in speaking up and praying for our global neighbours.

We can all play a part in making this a significant milestone as we tackle climate change together.



Pray for Creation
Heavenly Father,
you have taught us, through your servant St Francis
That all creation is your handiwork.
Grant us your grace that we may
Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth;
Tread lightly upon it;
and cherish its resources;
That our children may enjoy its riches,
throughout all generations,
And your name be glorified through all that you have made.
Amen

Pray for Phillip and Charley as they make their last preparations for their wedding at St. John's on Saturday 30th.

Lord we pray that as Charley and Phillip get ready 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



St John's will again be supporting this amazing charity.

A simple shoebox gift packed with love and fuelled by prayer can have a huge impact! Bringing Good News and great joy to children all around the world.

The global pandemic has disrupted and continues to disrupt everyday life for millions of people all around the world.

This year it would be great to reach out and give a gift to as many children as we can.

I have plenty of boxes, so you no longer need to worry about wrapping up shoe boxes.

If you would like to support this appeal or would like a pre wrapped box please contact me via email on stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com or by phone on 07972 618584. I am happy to drop and pick up boxes. Alternatively you can collect pre wrapped boxes on Sunday's or pop in and see me during the week.

All completed boxes will need to be ready in Church for collection by **14th November** at the latest. You can also pack a shoebox online by giving a donation of £20 and Samaritans Purse will pack a shoebox for you, just click on this link for more information [Shoobox Online \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk) **Nikki Bell**



More information will be sent out next week about our Remembrance Service for Sunday 14th November.

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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