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The Online Link - Christmas Edition St. John's Hillingdon



No. 84 Sun 19th December 2021 - Sat 8th January 2022
Registered Charity 1128058



*Alan & Anne Bradford would like to wish
everyone a happy and safe Christmas.
God's Blessings to you for 2022*



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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/8948145
2808](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808)

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Email stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com
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St. John's Church,

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP
www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk



Looking out into the future from my youthful days of the 1970's I thought two things were certainties. One was that Christmas would always feel and be the same and the other was that buoyed up by the undented confidence of youth, I was obviously going to grow up and have a huge impact on the world! Well who knew - it wouldn't and I didn't!

You would at least have thought Christmas would have continued the same, although my tinsel and Cindy doll filled Christmases faded with the 1970's, Christmas was always guaranteed to be filled with people, packed shops and even packed churches. The last two years have left us feeling uncertain about what to expect Christmas to look and feel like. However, it does rather annoy me when the media speculate as to whether or not politicians have the power to cancel Christmas. They don't. The certainty of Christmas was assured approximately 2021 years ago when Mary's youthful trust allowed her to say yes to God. I can't believe she wasn't filled with uncertainties as to what it might mean when an angel delivered this message to her:

“Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus, He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.” (Luke Ch 1:30-31)

The beginning of John's gospel, read at our own carol service last week, gives us a very different description of how God planned to enter the world as one of us. John talks of a true light coming into the world. When both the news and short days can conspire to make many of us feel as though we are in dark times, we can look to this light and be comforted by it.

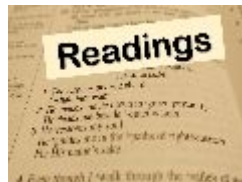
“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John Ch1:5)

I may have felt the brightness of the tinsel lit Christmases of my childhood dim with the passing years but this light never will fade away, it will only ever grow steadily brighter. God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

I've come to terms with the other unfulfilled certainty of my youth, as you too will have realised by now, I didn't grow up and have a huge impact on the world! I'm ok with that as I don't think I could have coped with all the packing that would come with all the international travel I would have had to undertake whilst going around impacting! In all seriousness, I believe that along with most of us, I am called to the ministry of the small. By that I mean we live out our lives in the ordinary and everyday. We affect the lives of those we live with, our families, friends and colleagues. We exchange a smile with a stranger on a bus, chat to the person on the checkout or maybe in the vaccination queue. We do small everyday acts of kindness, sometimes known only to ourselves but always to God. We make a phone call, send a text, say a prayer. These examples may be small but that doesn't mean they are insignificant. I believe God delights in the small and it's worth remembering that what we call the incarnation is God deciding to become one of us. God does that by becoming small, we've all never been as small as at the moment of our birth.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, praying that you may all experience the light of God in your lives during this season and beyond. **Caroline**

Anyone else have a Christmas tree like this in the 1970's?



Sunday 19th December

Jesus as Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Christmas Eve

Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (2 This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to his own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Christmas Day

The Shepherd's Visit

Luke 2:8-20

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy

that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Boxing Day
Genealogy of Jesus
Matthew 1:1-17

1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife, 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,

8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,

11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. 12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,

14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, 15 Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

2nd January 2021
Day of Epiphany Magi Visit
Matthew 2:1-17

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’ ” 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” 9 After they had heard the king,

they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,

15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." 19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."



December can be a very busy time even in present conditions – and one of excess and overconsumption.

This Christmas, why not choose to do things a little differently, and to honour God in your celebrations by caring for his creation and for our neighbours across the world? Through simple swaps and easy changes to our festive activities, we can all make a difference and send an important signal to others.

Twinning - give an alternative gift ,such as twinning your waste bin to help reduce our waste. Information from Tearfund.

Charity shop - source your gifts from charity shops to help others and save on waste..

Wrap presents using recyclable paper and tape .Use wrapping from the year before and remember to save any paper from this year for next.

Give a gift experience tailored to relatives interests like an online Indian cooking evening.

Try to buy gifts which do not contain single use plastic and also if asked, ask for a gift that is plastic free

Use old cards as tags or to create new cards

Have festive veg delivered by an organic delivery company such as Riverford.

Cut back on meat.

Eat more vegetarian meals.

Over Christmas It's estimated that 40 million crackers end up in our bins on Christmas Day. While some crackers can be recycled, those that use foil or glitter can't – and the plastic toys inside are often headed straight for landfill!

Replace your Christmas crackers with eco-friendly alternatives, including fair trade chocolate, wooden toys, fabric ties and upcycled charity finds.

Hosting Christmas festivities means decorating the house and trying to keep warm! These tips focus on making a cosy environment while reducing the harmful impact on our planet.

Make your own tree ,be creative ,use boxes or use a pruned branch from a tree or shrub in your garden

Energy use - try to ensure your house is well insulated as much as possible and draughts sealed. Also, look at your energy supply tariff to try to ensure you use renewable electricity.

Time to reflect. Many of us use this end-of-year season to take stock. It's a good opportunity to review your daily choices and habits, and prayerfully consider what the next steps towards more ethical living might be. Some thoughts from Tearfund campaigners

■ 'It isn't about striving, it's about heart change. You don't have to do it all perfectly to do something.' – Christina

■ 'I stepped back and looked at the bigger picture by doing a festive waste audit. I thought about what parts of the season cause waste and tried to think of ways to cut them out!' – Laura

■ 'It's helpful to know that long-term change is built by stacking up lots of smaller steps. It can be a really fun thing. It became like a mini-challenge for my wife and I to see what we could replace for more sustainable alternatives.' – Kiran

We can all take action towards making our Christmas and our daily choices more ethical. Don't be discouraged if you don't get a chance to try out all of these ideas this year: it's all about taking the next steps.

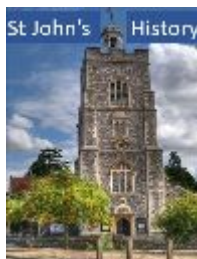
Meeting of Eco Action Group I attended another meeting of this group in November. Due to the workload of those due to attend and those attending and also some internet problems it was a small group and only ran for half an hour. Topics intended for discussion, a review of COP26, the subject for lent and the next event to be held in February.

It was decided that the topic for lent in 2022 should work around care for creation, making changes to our lifestyle. Dave Bookless will ask for a grant to help further establish Outdoor church which he leads in Ealing and would like to expand to other areas. There will be an event in the new year to continue to support and encourage other churches to register with Eco Church. A few more churches have signed up now over the diocese.

Local Art I belong to Hillingdon Artists and the group has just taken over an empty shop in the Pavilions as a 'pop up' gallery to show our work. The space is near Wilko.

You are welcome to drop in and to see the work and you may find that original hand made gift!

The empty shop spaces are being offered as an incentive to encourage people to return to the town after lockdown. At the moment we have the space until the end of March. There are other spaces available until they are open again as a retail site. **Christine Rodrigues**



This edition of "Hillingdon Histories" is about Francis and Elizabeth Godby who are buried under the floor of the church in the North Aisle so we have probably all walked over it many times!

The writing on the gravestone has survived remarkably well, this is what it says:

*Here layeth the body of Francis Godby late of the Strand London, who departed this life
December 15th in the year of our Lord 1770 aged 54 years also Mrs Elizabeth Godby relict of the
above died 24th September 1779 aged 50years.*

A search on google led me to a genealogy website and a conversation on a blog between 2 members of the same family who had an ancestor that worked for Francis Godby. It seems that Francis Godby was a button maker with a business, possibly a shop, in the Strand, London. The burial register states that he is from the parish of St Clement which is in The Strand.

In the 18th century, buttons were mainly worn by men whilst women's clothing used laces or hooks and eyes. Wealthy individuals in the 18th century bought hand-crafted buttons, sometimes made out of semi-precious materials, and hand painted or engraved. Many innovations in the world of buttons were noted in the 18th Century. Metal buttons were used and button covering was created. Buttons were used in most ancient civilisations, the earliest being thought to be in approximately 5000BC in Asia. Fascinating!!! **Christine Bartlett**



Francis and Elizabeth Godby's Gravestone.



This Prayer was written by Katie Powell and is used as a night prayer every day with children.

Dear God,

Thankyou for our happiness, health, food and home.

Thankyou for showing us the right path to roam.

Thankyou for the memories we get to make.

Thankyou for mending the love that we break.

Thankyou for today and everyday.

Thankyou for guiding us and showing the way.

Thankyou God for all that you do and being there when we need you.

Amen



Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday 19th December

Light a candle in your own home for Love

Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love - shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us to grow deeper with the love of Christ, and help us to show that love in new and practical ways to those we don't like and to those we hate, as well as to those we are friends or family with.

Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by loving others as Christ loves us.

We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**



Christmas Day

We light the Christmas candle and we rejoice that Jesus is born.
He is the love, joy, peace and hope for all the world.
A Saviour is born to us today. Alleluia!
Lord Jesus Christ, you bring the life of God into the world.
Fill us with your light, now and always. **Amen.**



Christmas Services

19th December - 10:30am 'Journey to Christmas' There will be no 9am Service on this day.

24th December Christmas Eve- 3:30pm & 5:30pm in person and via Zoom '**Christingle Services'** At the end of this service a collection for the Children's society will take place.
Booking is required for both services if coming in person. Please book your place via Nikki on 07972618584 or stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com.

(Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808> to join 30 mins before the start)

24th December Christmas Eve- 11:30pm 'Midnight Holy Communion' by Candlelight. In person service only.

25th December Christmas Day- 10:30am in person Holy Communion service. Bring along a present to show!

26th December- 10:30am 'Zoom into Boxing Day'

(Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808> to join from 10am in the comfort of your home)

Update: If you are joining us in person we have the following in place to help protect against the spread of Coronavirus:

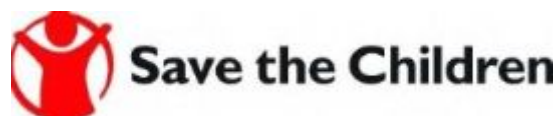
- **Masks:** You are required to wear a mask inside the church and when singing unless you are exempt. If you are exempt you should have an exemption card and wear this on a lanyard so that others are at ease. Masks are available at the entrance to St John's. However you may wish to use your own mask.
- **Hand sanitiser:** This is available when you enter and at various locations inside St. John's, although you may wish to bring your own.
- **Signing in:** Upon entering St John's please see one of the Welcomers who will sign you in.
- **Seating:** Please only sit in the pews that have a red seat cushion. This is due to keeping a safe distance to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. It also helps when we administer the Holy Communion as the servers can use the pew in between.
- **Coffee and Tea:** Currently we have not reinstated this yet. We continue to monitor and review this and will let you know on the link when we will be able to offer refreshments.

If you have any questions/concerns about any of the above please do contact Alan or myself.

Nikki




NOTICES



Carol, Rick and Roy will be taking part in Voices in Accord's annual Christmas Concert in aid of Save The Children on Saturday 18th December. The concert will feature Christmas songs and carols and will be taking place at North Hillingdon Methodist Church in Long Lane at 2.45pm. No tickets required but there will be a retiring collection in Aid of Save the Children.

Uxbridge Choral Society Returns!
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT
 St Andrew's Church
 Hillingdon Rd, Uxbridge
 UB10 0AE
December 18th 2021
7.30 pm
Tickets £10
 (children under 16 free)
 Available on the door or
 via the choir website
Includes Festive Refreshments!
 Supported by St Andrew's



UxChor
 Uxbridge Choral Society
 Directed by Tim Armstrong-Taylor
 Guest Pianist Gillian Salmon
 www.uxbridgechoralsociety.org.uk
 Registered Charity 1056177

Celebrating Christmas 2021




LIVE JAZZ

Thurs 23 December~12 to 2.30pm

*Chestnuts Roasting (The Christmas Song)
 Frosty The Snowman
 Have Yourself A Merry, Merry Christmas
 I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
 Jingle Bells
 Let It Snow, Let It Snow!
 Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer
 Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
 White Christmas
 Winter Wonderland*



Plus: Your Jazz Vocal Favourites

 *Why not bring your own Turkey Sandwich, Mince Pie and flask of Coffee/Tea and have lunch with us?*

St John's Church, Royal Lane, Hillingdon UB8 3QR



Enquiries: 077809 71726



Thank You!

Through the generosity of many from St John's and those visiting we delivered 19 shoe boxes, filled with beautiful children's gifts. For the **Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoe box appeal**. I have not included the boxes that might have been given online. Thank you to all who have supported this fantastic charity!



Thank you for your support

Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal

To: St John's Church Hillingdon

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised £148.29



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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