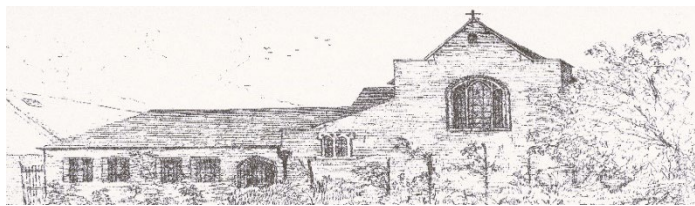


# All Saints' North Hillingdon

## 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Year B



### Welcome All on this the first Sunday in February, Candlemas Sunday.

God has been reborn into the world, now as God's creating Word in the flesh. The threefold claim, "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" reveals the origin of Jesus, his relationship with God, and his identity as God.

While we learn essential truths about Christ, the majority of John Chapter 1 meaning is focused on John the Baptist. In fact, by the time we reach John 1:6, we learn that John the Baptist was sent by God to testify about Jesus.

What is the lesson of John 1 1 12?

We are not naturally children of God. God only gives the privilege of being his children to those who by personal faith receive Jesus as Lord and believe in who he is. They gain three huge benefits: They become children through a faith-relationship with Jesus.

What life lessons can we learn from John 1?

John's Gospel teaches us the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus. Throughout our lives, Jesus wants us to pray to Him, talk with Him, and put our trust in Him.

### NEH:HYMNS AT 10 O'CLOCK

Process 265 Lord of Beauty, thine the

Gradual 433 O Worship the King All glorious above; omit \*vv

Offertory 338 At the name of Jesus omit \*vv

Comm 258 O Christ the same through all

Comm 397 Let us with a gladsome mind

Recess 263 All creatures of our God and King omit \*vv

*The Choir will sing the Gospel Alleluia*



### AT THE INTERCESSIONS:

We pray for all members of the Church: that each of us, whether ordained, consecrated, single, married, or widowed, may seek God first in our lives and love others with the love with which God first loved us.

We pray for leaders of nations: that they may glorify the Lord by their decisions to respect life and to guarantee dignity and justice for all.

We pray for all who are bound by evil: that the Spirit of Christ may release them from addictions, greed, anger, and vengeance so that they may live in the freedom of God's children.

We pray for all who suffer from mental and emotional illness, as well as their families and those close to them: that God's love will strengthen, heal, and sustain them and help us to accompany them along life's journey.

**Lord hear us:**

**Lord graciously hear us**

### THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS

***We hold in your presence all who are being cared for in this parish, for the staff at the care homes for their care and dedication. We name before you all those with particular needs who have asked for our prayers;***

Joyce Smith, Daphne Dix; Macey Ann Brazil, Veronica Samuels, Gill Mayer; Beverly Leavy, Hazel & Helen Parris, Pearl Syer, Lynn Taylor, Mabel, Mark Callaghan, Susie Bromham, Georgie Isiah, Marion Fogell, Antony Williams and The Reverend Greville Thomas.

***May they know your presence with them, and that you are their strength, their healing, and their salvation.***

**Lord hear us:**

**Lord graciously hear us**

We remember before God those who have died recently: ***Lisa Welch***

Give strength to those who are left to grieve and help us to share in each other's sorrow.

***For those whose anniversary falls at about this time;***

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4 <sup>th</sup>	Kath Parsons
6 <sup>th</sup>	Aileen Giddens
9 <sup>th</sup>	Earnest Mosby Doris Blair Len Trett
10 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Baker Kit Williams

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## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all  
your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
reigns supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Proverbs 8:1. 22-31

*A reading from the book of Proverbs.*

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

## PSALM Psalm 104:26-end

I will sing to the Lord as long  
as I live

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to  
number,  
creatures both small and great.  
There move the ships,

and there is that Leviathan,  
which you have made for the sport of  
it. **R**

All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it to them, they gather it;  
you open your hand and they are  
filled with good things.  
You hide your face and they are  
terrified;  
you take away their breath  
and they die and return to their dust. **R**

You send forth your Spirit and they  
are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord endure for  
ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.  
He looks at the earth and it trembles,  
he touches the mountains and they  
smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my  
being.  
May these words of mine please him;  
I will rejoice in the Lord.  
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and the wicked be no more.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Alleluia! **R**

## SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-20

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.*

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

## GOSPEL John 1:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

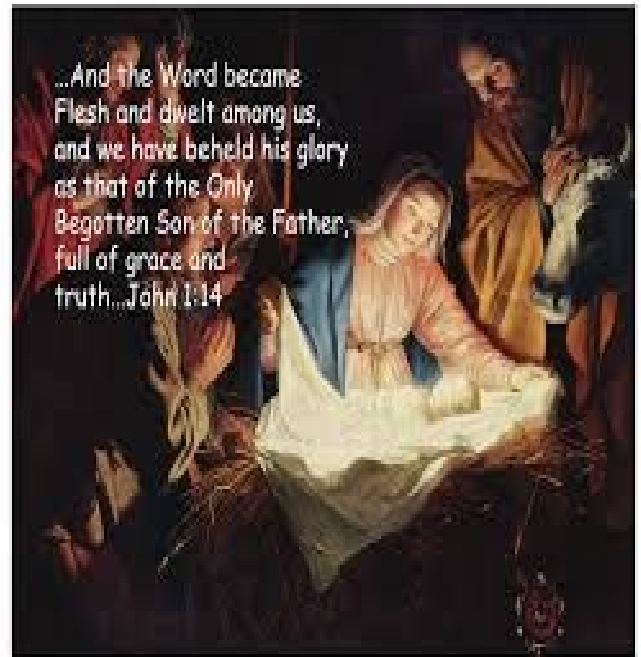
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## POST COMMUNION

God our creator,  
by your gift  
the tree of life was set at the heart of  
the earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of  
your Church:  
may we who have been nourished at  
your table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the  
Saviour's cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Notices This week

<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> @ 10am Said Eucharist</b>	<b>Rev Ulric</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> February: Sunday next before Lent 8am Said Eucharist 10am Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>Rev Ulric</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> February: ASH Wednesday service 7:30pm</b>	<b>Fr Ken Buckler</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 All Saints APCM</b>	<b>In church after 10 am Service</b>



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**ASH Wednesday  
 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
 Service at 7:30pm only  
 With Revd Ken Buckler**

**The Church of England have a variety of apps  
(<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps>)**

**Here are three that I use and enjoy.**

**Common Worship Lectionary (£8.99)**  
<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/lectionary> For each day of the church year, it presents the Common Worship Lectionary readings in full, plus links to the Bible passages themselves.

**Sunday worship (£1.99 for offline access)**  
<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/sunday-worship> Sunday Worship allows you to view the next Sunday's Bible readings, Collect and post Communion prayers from Common Worship in full. Browse by date and scroll ahead to future Sundays

**Daily Prayer (£1.99 offline access, otherwise free)**  
<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/daily-prayer>

**Daily Prayer helps you follow Morning, Evening and Night Prayer, wherever you are. For every day of the year, it presents the three services in full and include Bible readings, psalms, canticles and seasonal variations.**

**Revd Ulric**



**To book Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Baptisms and so on,  
please come along to Vestry Hour, which normally  
takes place in church on Saturdays  
between 10:00 & 11:00  
(No appointment is needed.)**



4 February 2024  
Second Sunday before Lent

Connecting faith and daily life

# That shrinking feeling

Margaret Marshall *reflects on* John 1:1-14

Shrinking human beings down in size has provided a rich seam of creativity for writers and film makers. In the 1987 film *Inner Space*, people are miniaturised to the size of microbes and injected into a full-sized human. Their dynamic rescue mission offers a whole new perspective and a deeper understanding of human biology. The human immune system's response and the heart's pumping action are infinitely more dramatic from within.

Perhaps when Jesus – part of God's own self – found himself right inside humankind he also made surprising discoveries about people. But the mystery of God becoming flesh and dwelling among mortals, of which St John movingly writes in the introduction to his Gospel, is a rescue mission of far greater significance. For its unexpected feature is not how Jesus gains a new perspective on humanity, but how humanity gains a unique opportunity to encounter the very mind of God: the word, the rationale, the wisdom of its creator.

Sadly, few of Jesus' contemporaries grasped this, and we read that: "He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him." Yet for those who could see through this person to the supremely loving source of all being, "he gave power to become children of God". The close encounter, by dynamic and innovative shrinking of God's own nature into the humble form we all share, opened up the possibility of a new way forward. Paradoxically, it enlarged humanity. 🙏

## Retirement

### What is retirement?

by Julia McGuinness

Many cards reflect a popular portrayal of retirement – freed from having to work for an income, we can finally take a well-earned rest, from cruising to snoozing, lunch with friends, afternoons with a jigsaw.

The concept of retirement is relatively recent. The 1908 Old Age Pensions Act entitled those over seventy and "of good character" to draw a pension. Before that, provision was piecemeal. Those

unable to keep working relied on family, charity or parish support. Retirement today defies a single definition. Some see it as a forever holiday, while others are busier than in their working days. Some pursue personal dreams, others volunteer their time and talents to the community. Some embrace it, others delay it.

The psalmist, speaking from a pre-retirement era, compares God's people to flourishing trees that "still produce fruit" in old age, as they "are always green and full of sap" (Psalm 92:14). Perhaps the more appropriate retirement cards are those that declare "Let the adventure begin!" 🙏



Lord Jesus, thank you for taking humble human form and living among us on earth. Through your divinity we become full-sized. Amen.

## Characters of the New Testament

### James, Jesus' Brother

by Caroline Fletcher

Initially Jesus' family struggled to understand who Jesus was or comprehend his message. However, after Jesus' brother, James, saw the risen Christ, things changed. He became a significant Christian leader, heading the church in Jerusalem. Many believe he wrote the New Testament's Letter of James.

The first Christians were Jews who continued to practise circumcision and other regulations of Mosaic Law. When

the Gospel spread to non-Jews, tensions arose over whether these Gentile believers should be expected to keep the Law too. James chaired The Council of Jerusalem to discuss this (Acts 15). It agreed Gentile Christians should be free from onerous adherence to the Law, paving the way for Christianity to be viewed as a religion in its own right.

James is believed to have been martyred. One tradition claims he was pushed from Jerusalem's Temple pinnacle after refusing to denounce Christ. He was an important and brave man. 🙏

“Tension, anxiety, worry, frustration, all melt away before him, as snow before the sun.”

Jim Borst (1932-2018), Dutch Roman Catholic missionary