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### **In this Issue!**

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St. John's Church,  
Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP  
[www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshillingdon.org.uk)

### **Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):**

Click on the Loving, Growing sharing Image  
above from Sunday 10am or on

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808>

### **Church Administrator: Nikki Bell**

Email [stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnshillingdon@gmail.com)

Text/Phone 07972 618584

### **Vicar: Alan Bradford**

Email [abradford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abradford@hotmail.co.uk)

Emergencies Text/Phone: 07847672599



I have just come in from the sun on what is a lovely and warm Sunday evening. Anne and I walked towards the church to listen to the 72 chimes of a church bell in remembrance of the 72 lives lost in the Grenfell Tower tragedy. We met Gill and Andrew Pearce who were outside to listen and pay their respects too. Ray was inside doing the ringing and whilst he was doing so I was also aware of the busy traffic going to-and-fro on the A4020.

The increase in traffic is phenomenal compared to a few weeks ago. Have you noticed how so much busier things are now becoming? We do need to 'Stay Alert', and by that I mean to **Stay Spiritually Alert**, recognising that it is easy to get sucked into a pace and way of life that bit by bit can lead us to 'run roughshod' over an inner life that remains with God. We then become more insecure, fearful, and our spiritual vision, perspective and energy ebb away. How wonderful that

we can come back again into the presence and loving arms of the Father when we recognise what is happening.

As Father's Day approaches this Sunday we can reflect upon the love of a wonderful Father, our unconditionally loving Father God, whose arms are always fully open wide, ready to accept us no matter what we think of ourselves, and no matter what have done.

**Here is a special prayer for you to pray for yourself.**

**You might like to pray it slowly with pauses to fully take in and receive.**

Father, thank you that you love me so deeply and unconditionally. Help me to trust in your unfailing love for me personally. Thank you that I don't need to strive to please you, for you already fully accept me, no matter what I have done, and all the mistakes I have made. Thank you that I do not need to earn your love or acceptance, for you already fully accept me as I am. Thank you for sending your son to die for me on the cross, not only for my sin but also for my healing. Thank you that I can have a relationship with you in and through Christ. Help me to live in your truths and promises, and not in my insecurities, failures and fears. Help me to fully see myself as you see me, and to fully accept myself as you fully accept me. Amen.

**Other Prayers**

**A prayer for North Africa**

The coronavirus crisis has caused much fear and uncertainty in North African society. Pray that the church can be salt and light during this time, and that it will find creative ways to meet and to support isolated believers, especially the elderly.

**A prayer for Morocco**

Pray for Christians involved in social work. Their example of taking care of the vulnerable is a great witness in Moroccan society. Ask God to give more believers vision for how to be involved in this vital work.



**Your Giving in Worship: The Collection!**

If you worship with us at St. John's Church (either before the lockdown or presently on our 'Zoom' services), or if you are a regular giver to St. John's, then please read on! If you are interested party, although you don't attend any services, please go to the '**Friends of St. John's**' paragraph at the end of this section! Thank you.

**Worship is our response to who God is and what he has done.** We respond fully with everything - head, heart, and hands to a God who gave everything for us in Christ who died on the cross for us, and in doing so made the ultimate sacrifice. Three ways we respond in worship are in sung worship, in serving and in our financial giving. Everything in the world is God's and we are stewards of the resources he has entrusted us with.

As worshippers many of us have not been able to worship through giving in church as we have not been able to hold services for the past 14 Sundays - that's over a quarter of a year! I know many of you are concerned about this, and are keen to put this right and be enabled to give at this time. This also includes many of you who have been able to give regularly through your standing order, although you have not been able to supplement this regular amount as you would normally do in the collection. We have now made it possible for everyone to **catch up** on your worship giving and we have provided a means for your **ongoing** worship through giving.

**Sorting your giving: Catch up & Ongoing!**

In response to a generous God, we want to continue to flow in that generosity as we reflect the nature and character of God in our lives. During these times we have been prevented from worshipping God in our giving as we would normally. As you might have expected, this has started to affect the life and mission of St. John's as our income from collection plates, visitors and lettings has dropped significantly and your church is really feeling the pinch, to say the least! We do want to continue to make a difference in mission through our loving, growing and sharing so that we can continue to transform lives and our communities. As we begin to come out of lockdown, we need to address this situation so that we can continue to provide flourishing mission and ministry to our communities.

Financially, we all find ourselves in different positions as a result of coronavirus;. Some of you will be suffering hardship yourself, maybe through being made redundant or struggling financially through being furloughed with no 20% top-up and will not be in a position to be generous at this time. Many of us have continued in our jobs and roles, and have been unaffected financially. Many of us who don't work have been isolating and our financial position has remained about the same or has improved! Many of us will be better off financially through not travelling or eating out so much! Some of us have not had the opportunity or time to increase our standing order for a few years and the regular amount needs updating.

**Please refer to the most relevant section in the examples below relating to ways of giving that were in place before the lockdown.**

### Catch up and ongoing giving using the button



**Catch Up & Ongoing** The examples and suggestions below are a means of catching up on your giving, and the opportunities presented to you for ongoing giving from this point onward. Please excuse the made up names which bear no resemblance to anyone known to us.

#### Giving Example: Cash Giver

Prya normally puts £40 per week into the offering and would catch up on any Sundays missed.

**Catch Up:** No. of Sundays not able to meet = 14.  $14 \times £40 = £560$ . This can be paid now by card and by clicking on the 'Donate' button below. This will 'catch up' Prya's giving.

**Ongoing:** £40 can be paid each week by card before, during or after our weekly Zoom service using your card and by clicking on the 'Donate' button on our website. We will be able to arrange for you to give by Direct Debit in the near future.

#### Giving Example: Envelope Giver

Carl normally puts £30 per week into the envelope scheme.

**Catch Up:** No. of Sundays not able to meet = 14.  $14 \times £30 = £420$ . If you can, please write a cheque for the total of all the amounts you are giving and send in the post to St. John's at the address below. Only if this proves impossible then please give your envelopes (or cheque) to whoever delivers to you The Online Link (sorry we haven't had the opportunity to ask you kind people who deliver) or email or ring Nikki and we will arrange for the envelopes/cheque to be collected.

**Ongoing:** £30 can be paid each week by sending in a cheque each week. Please only use the envelopes if you absolutely have to. You can use a card by clicking on the 'Donate' button below, and on our website.

#### Giving Example: Standing Order Giver

Gabriella normally pays £150 by Standing Order each month and has been supplementing this

with putting £20 into the collection each week.

**Catch Up:** Gabriella would like to make a 'catch up' donation of £280 (14 weeks x £20) using the 'Donate' button below and on our website in order to supplement her basic amount of regular giving.

**Ongoing:** Gabriella will increase her Standing Order by £20 per month by phoning her bank or by using online banking which will save her time. She could have decided to pay £20 per week before, after or during one of our Zoom services using our website.

#### **Giving Example: New Giver**

Michael has been coming to St. John's more regularly in 2019 and in recent months.

**Catch Up:** Michael has decided to make a 'catch up' donation using his card and 'Donate' button below.

**Ongoing:** Michael has decided to give regularly each week using the 'Donate' button on our website and is going to set up a direct debit/standing order in the next few days so he is still able to give when not able to attend.

Thank you, and please do email Alan or Nikki or Carol (our treasurer) if you have any questions,

#### **Friends of St. John's'**

This paragraph is for those reading this who are friends of St. John's and are very much interested in St. John's, although you don't normally come along on a Sunday morning and you are not normally a regular giver. We also wanted to let you know that coronavirus has hit the church hard financially and if you would like to, and are able to, please consider making a financial gift using the 'Donate' button below, or available from our website. We thank you for your prayers your interest in our wonderful building and in the work we are doing to transform lives.

**Donate**

**Click on 'Donate' to catch up on your giving or to make a donation.**

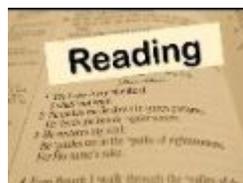
**Thank you if you have already given.**

#### **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



#### **Acts 3: 1-16**

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God,

10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. 11 While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

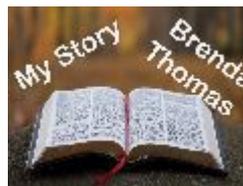
12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.



**Action: Read Acts Ch 1 & 2**  
**Click on 'Acts' image for info**



### **Brenda Thomas: My Spiritual Story- Part 2**

God has always been in my life, even in fact before I was born, as I came to know, after Psalm 139 became my favourite psalm, and one that seemed to pop up at most of the significant times in my life. It wasn't until I joined St Johns around 1989 that I really began to acknowledge, accept, value and depend on his presence.

I wasn't a particularly happy child, for various reasons, but I always enjoyed primary school assemblies and singing hymns. I also loved joining the "Batchelors" singing "I believe" and Louis Armstrong singing "what a wonderful world". I believed that God had created the world but didn't think about how that actually affected me. This meant that in the times when I really needed him I didn't realise that he was there for me.

After having been through a divorce, and marrying Ian, I began to think more about my faith and what it actually meant to me, which is when I accepted an invitation to see and hear Billy Graham in London.

Since then God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit have been there for me, although I probably ignore them all from time to time. Once while praying during one particularly stressful occasion, I actually heard (in my head) God saying to me "It will be OK" and had the feeling of a hand on my shoulder. I have to say that I am a fairly cynical person and don't easily trust or believe so this came as a great surprise to me.

On another occasion, during a very unpleasant experience for me at work, I chose to read the whole chapter of Job, not the happiest of chapters in the Bible, but it really helped me to learn more about myself and others and to move on.

There are occasions when I have no idea what to do in certain situations, and I turn to friends, who are lovely and offer an ear and advice, which is great. I also read daily thoughts and reflections on Bible passages and one of these once said that in these circumstances we need to pray, turn things over to God, and he will help in **his** way and in **his** time. I now do this and have totally unexpected and amazing results, which I am certain come from God. I once heard said at a funeral (and something that I used sometimes too) that everyone who was there, and had known the deceased, had only actually known a part of them. It was only God who had known every part of them, as he knows us.

#### St John's Story

I finally came to take my faith seriously in 1989 via Billy Graham, a Baptist Enquirers Group and St Johns. I joined a confirmation course fairly soon after joining St John's, and went on to join the PCC and volunteer to become a server. Part of the server's role was to carry the cross in front of the choir around the church at the beginning of the service. My one fear was that one day the choir would choose the short cut and I would be processing around the church alone!

Fortunately it didn't happen. Later I was accepted on to the first Willesden Diocese Pastoral Assistant course. The training took one year and the meetings were mostly in the evenings but also included two residential weekends. I thoroughly enjoyed it, learned loads and explored various forms of worship from very traditional to very evangelical. It is no surprise that I like something in between.

Not long after the course finished Rev Duncan Mackenzie left St John's and Rob Harrison joined us. I'm not sure what he thought about inheriting a fully fledged Pastoral Assistant or knew what to do with one, and it took us both a little while to decide on a sort of job description. I started a house group which has included people of all ages and a married couple who both went on to become, and who still are, vicars. Amazingly we still meet 30 years later with some of the original members.

At first I mainly visited the bereaved and took Communion to housebound parishioners. Later I was asked if I would like to take funerals. I was shocked at first as it was something I had never thought I could do, but I agreed and found it an amazing privilege. I also enjoyed being part of a team at Hillingdon Hospital who collected patients from their ward and took them to the chapel for a Sunday service. Since then I've led some 8am and 9.30am services and also helped with Sunday school. Some of the events I've organised and/or helped to organise include various Fetes, Sunday lunches for people on their own in what is now the Grundon Room, a Renewal of wedding vows evening, bowling and fish and chip evenings, garden parties in the vicarage garden, a Family Fortunes evening, an Eco Festival and have loved being part of "Old Spice (I was Baby!!!) and the Hillingdon Village People (I was the builder!) and also taking part in murder mystery plays. Now I am a welcomer, part of a small Eco Group and help with the services at Parkfield House residential care home.

I have felt at home at St John's from the very beginning, although I struggled at first, singing the Gloria, and also attempting to find the right page of the service book! I feel that St Johns is my second home and think of everyone there as part of my extended family. I'd like to say a big thank

you to all who have been and still are part of my St John's story. *Brenda*



I love red telephone boxes and I am so pleased that we still have one (with a usable phone!) by the church. I am delighted to report that it is a listed building and as such it is protected for a good few years to come.

The website for Historic England has accurate descriptions of all listed buildings and this is what it has to say about the Hillingdon Village telephone box.

*ROYAL LANE, HILLINGDON K6 Telephone Kiosk in front of the Red Lion Public House and Elm Tree Cottage TQ 0682 23/5000 II GV 2. Telephone kiosk. Type K6. Designed 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Made by various contractors. Cast iron. Square kiosk with domed roof. Unperforated crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and door.*

The designer's name may ring a bell (sorry no pun intended!) with some of you, his grandfather was Sir George Gilbert Scott who was the architect of the extensive alterations to St John's in the 1850's. The original kiosk design proposed a silver exterior but the Post office decided it should be red.

Telephone boxes these days are pretty much redundant given that nearly everyone has a mobile phone. In some parts of Britain, local communities have found a new purpose for these icons of British-ness. Some have been turned into lending libraries, local produce swap shops, housing for defibrillators, a mini museum (Isles of Scilly) and somewhere in the UK I believe there is one that's been turned into a fish tank!! Some have been replaced by newer designs, and the latest phone box is known as a KX100+, which also has internet service available.

And finally, a bit of trivia for you: the word kiosk comes from the **Turkish word köşk**, which originally referred to a kind of open pavilion or summerhouse in Turkey and Persia, often built on a hexagonal or many-sided base. The upper classes of the Ottoman Empire would enjoy entertainments and view their gardens in the comfort of such buildings.

The photos below show the kiosk by St John's and also the designer of the K6, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.



### Looking at our local flora and the campaign to improve road verges.

You may have noticed that our roadside verges have been looking very colourful this year but although they look lovely in order to improve the local flora the verges need to be well managed. Plantlife is an International Plant Conservation charity which has been running a campaign to improve our road verges. According to Plantlife, planting generic mixes of wildflower seed does little to conserve wild flowers and can threaten the distinctiveness of natural local flora. Mixtures of annual, often non-native, flowers for pollinators can also be expensive and labour intensive to maintain. Instead, simply cutting less and later will give native plants the opportunity to flower and set seed. Given the chance to spread, verges will be full of life again before too long. If verges have been neglected for a long time and are devoid of wild flower species, it may be worth restoring the habitat with locally sourced wildflower seed or green hay. They have also calculated that, if verges were looked after properly, there could be 418 billion flowers across the country. It would be like creating over a quarter of a million acres of meadow.

If this of interest you can support the campaign by signing a petition on the Plantlife website. They also run a Wildflower Hunt through spring and summer, helping us to see the wild flowers that surround us every day. In town, local woodland or the countryside, getting to recognise and name them.

Details can be found at [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk). *Christine R*

### Praying for the Planet

This Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, is the new moon, the day we particularly remember our beautiful planet in prayer, meditation, awareness or involvement, with love, hope and gratitude.

This is the weekend of the equinox, the day of the long sun, the day we are nearest to our star. We have come a long way from our Neolithic ancestors who lived in close harmony with the sun and moon and seasons. We could see their lives as primitive, but it is not in our favour that most of us are so cut off from our own planet. The things that are affecting it badly at the moment. the climate warming, biodiversity loss, pollution, denudation and more, stem from seeing the earth as a resource to be used at will, not something to be in relationship with and respected. So let us take time this weekend to change this. Be aware of the sun and of the season, of the plants and animals that bless us in so many ways, of the air we breathe and the water we drink, and offer up the best prayer there is – gratitude. *Jane Upchurch*



### **Congratulations**

Many congratulations to Chloe and Paul & sister Isla on the birth of Euan 🍷❤️🍷

### **Thank You**

To everyone who has supported our local care homes. The homes have been so grateful for all of your support in this difficult time.

Jonathan W has bought a years subscription to The People's Friend magazine which will be delivered straight to Parkfield. It's so generous and thoughtful of him so a massive thank you to him. It also highlights how zoom church has brought us all back together as a big extended family. *Caroline*



### **St. John's on the radio!**

Local historian talks about St. John's churchyard on uxbridgefm.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1865962190202040>

[Click here](#) for pdf file of this edition

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