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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)

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It was great to have Bishop Pete with us recently for our 'Zoom' service. Included in this edition is the transcript of Bishop Pete's talk from our series on Acts. Many thanks to Kate Andeson for typing up the sermon.

Please read the sermon through and reflect on Bishop Pete's words. You can also listen again from our website by [clicking here](#) (and scrolling down). There are some **key questions for reflection**, and you will find these at the bottom of the transcript within this edition.

Thank you for the comments about the 'new' song, "The Goodness of God", that we have been using in our worship times together since June. I am glad that it is proving a blessing and helping you express to God what is on your hearts.

You can worship at anytime with this song, and also see the lyrics, on our website and also by [clicking here](#).

I have also been struck by the simplicity and profoundness of the words of a song "By the Grace of God" co-written recently by that great English song writer, Tim Hughes. I love how the first verse speaks of Jesus being the security when things are unsettled, and also how it expresses a trust that begins at the very beginning of the day:

### **Verse 1**

I rest my soul on Jesus When the mountains shake  
I put my trust in Jesus The moment I awake

I like the way verse 2 expresses the fact that Jesus is the rock and how we find what we need through grace:

### **Verse 2**

And when my soul is lost at sea He will be my rock  
My vision be in Christ alone This grace is all we've got

The chorus reminded some who were at our Wednesday prayer/get together time (10am) this week of the "Footprints" poem which many of you will know, how Jesus carries us in difficult times, and there is only one set of footprints in the sand when he carries us.

### **Chorus**

*His love is like the mighty ocean His love for me will never stop  
Oh, His arms are strong enough to carry me Through it all, by the grace of God*

You can hear and worship with this lovely, simple, profound song,, and also see the lyrics, on our website by [clicking here](#) (and scrolling down)

[click here](#) for a 30m video on how to be creative in your prayer journey using art.

Enjoy learning, reflecting and worshipping!

In God's love, Alan

### **Prayers**

#### **Nepal**

Lord, who is our shepherd, we pray for the people of Nepal in this time of want. Guide those who grieve to still waters; restore their soul. Lead those who are searching to the right places. Comfort those who are trapped in the darkest valley of fear. May generosity and compassion overflow in response so that goodness and mercy may follow all who will live in the shadow of this earthquake. May they dwell in secure houses and know healing and protection all their life long. Amen.

#### **North Korea (the worst country in the world for Christian persecution)**

Lord, we can barely imagine what it's like to follow you in a country so oppressive as North Korea – but thank you that you are sovereign and victorious despite this. Please continue to grow our church and give solace to Christians who are in prison and courage to those who are secret believers.. Break the power of evil in North Korea, we pray.



**United New Wine Breaks Out 30 July - 3 August**

Join us as we gather together online - across homes, churches and communities – for teaching, worship and prayer ministry for all ages and abilities. No need to book or register. It’s all available for free at:

[new-wine.org/breaksout](http://new-wine.org/breaksout)

Seminars etc on **Creation, Apologetics, Mental Health, Loss, Diversity Parenting** etc. Also United Kids, teaching and so much more!

**SEMINARS**

	<b>31 FRI</b> 13:30 - 14:15	<b>01 SAT</b> 13:30 - 14:15	<b>02 SUN</b> 13:30 - 14:15
<b>CREATION CARE</b>	Creation in crisis: building back better – <i>Rich Johnson, Ruth Valerio, Ali Angus &amp; Neil Grant</i>	Creation in Crisis: Creativity and hope – <i>Jack Wakefield &amp; Thandi Gamedze</i>	Creation in crisis: what can I do? <i>Jack Wakefield, Tiria Barnes plus interviews with Tom Bray and Caroline MacDonald</i>
<b>APOLOGETICS</b>	Does science leave room for God in a pandemic world? - <i>Ruth Banciewicz</i>	What does success look like to God? - <i>Emma Ineson</i>	Is God fair? - <i>Sean Doherty</i>
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>	Managing worried thoughts & anxious feelings- <i>Will van der Hart</i>	Fear less! Managing anxiety in times of global pandemic – <i>Kate Middleton</i>	Resilience - thriving in adversity – <i>Patrick Regan</i>
<b>PRAYER</b>	<i>Pastor Agu Irukwu</i>	Prayer as a force for unity - <i>Jon Tyson</i>	Praying with ambition - <i>Jill Duff</i>
<b>GRIEF, LOSS &amp; LAMENT</b>	The power of grieving - <i>Zoe &amp; Andy Clark-Coates</i>	Dealing with disappointment - <i>Mark &amp; Cathy Madavan</i>	Growing through grief - <i>Rob Bewley</i>
<b>RACE &amp; DIVERSITY</b>	Talking is not enough <i>Steve Clifford &amp; Yemi Adediji</i>	We need to talk about race - Jesus walks - social welfare to social justice - <i>Ben Lindsay</i>	Talking race; listening, empowering, belonging - <i>Elaine Sutherland</i>
<b>PREPARING FOR A NEW WORLD</b>	Break out into your own future: Part 1 - <i>Patrick Dixon</i>	<i>Mark Sayers</i>	The greatest opportunity in a generation - <i>David Stroud</i>
<b>PARENTING FOR FAITH</b>	Parenting in a post-pandemic world - <i>Rachel Turner</i>	Managing failure and disappointment with kids and teens - <i>Rachel Turner</i>	Helping kids and teens find purpose in this next season - <i>Rachel Turner</i>
<b>BREATHE</b>	Leaning on the Father - <i>Paul &amp; Becky Harcourt</i>	Go gently - <i>Diane &amp; Patrick Regan</i>	Trusting God for today - <i>Eddie &amp; Christine Lyle</i>

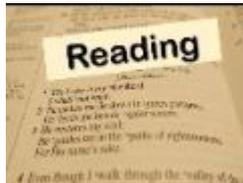
**WEBINARS, Q&As, SOFA & LIVE SESSIONS**

<b>31 FRI</b> 16:00 - 17:00	<b>01 SAT</b> 16:00 - 17:00	<b>02 SUN</b> 16:00 - 17:00
Mental Health & Well-being: Q&As with <i>Mind and Soul Foundation</i>	Creation in crisis: imagination workshop - <i>Jack Wakefield, Thandi Gamedze, Izzy Stark, Meg Prosser &amp; others</i>	Race & Diversity: Live Zoom Webinar - <i>Mike Royal &amp; guests</i>
Break out into your own future: Part 2 - <i>Patrick Dixon</i>	Parenting: Facebook Live sofa session - <i>Rachel Turner &amp; Rick Otto</i>	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry Live - <i>John Peters &amp; team</i>



It will all be available for FREE very soon via  
[new-wine.org/BreaksOut](http://new-wine.org/BreaksOut)

NewWine



### Acts 8:1-8, 14-17 & 25

1 And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.  
 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

25 After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and

John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.



### **Sylvia Roberts Part Two**

I retired in October 1996 after 43 years in the National Health Service. At first it was like taking 2 weeks leave, I could do as I wished. Two weeks later it began to sink in, I no longer had a job to go to! I had been to Harefield hospital, had an angiogram, was diagnosed with coronary artery disease and advised to rest and enjoy my retirement. I knew in my heart God had more for me to do than sit around and rest!

I bought a new sewing machine and started making many items for the St John's Church summer and Christmas sales. I had visited my young sister in Australia and brought back many lovely pieces of fabric. I also visited relatives in North Wales where I purchased an abundance of wool. I knitted many baby jackets, waistcoats for members of the church, jumpers for church family members and baby blankets and children's cardigans.

In 2002 my eldest brother was killed in Australia. We had always been close since childhood. When I started nursing my salary was £5 a month and Alex would send me £5 a month from his air force allowance. We had always worked together as children caring for our younger brother and sisters.

I awoke one Friday morning in 2009 and couldn't see, I was terrified. My young brother John took me to the Western Eye Hospital, then to Moorfields Eye Hospital; there followed 5 years of surgery, injections and laser treatment. I was introduced to the Visual Impaired Group at Christchurch and remain a member, despite regaining my sight sufficiently to drive in daylight. I became a member of the Disabled People Association, treasurer of the St John's Monday Group, chairperson of the Leasehold Association, Secretary of the Highfield Senior Citizens club and a member of Hillingdon FIT (fighting infection together) group. I have served St John's since 1962, wearing the Alb, carrying the cross at baptisms and during internment of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance.

I am an insulin dependent diabetic, and have had 2 major spinal surgeries which with God's help got me out of my wheelchair. I have extensive neuropathy of both feet and cannot always feel the ground.

I have enjoyed my retirement, served my community and with God's help can do so for more years to come, so not quite the end yet!

I have travelled extensively: 9 times to America, caring for my sister Cathy's children when No 2 came along, then No 3 but also on many other pleasurable visits. I have been to Australia 8 times for weddings, funerals and also visiting Perth ( where my brother lived) as well as visits to Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef, to Sydney, Melbourne and have even visited the cast of Neighbours! My youngest sister Esme, lives in Queensland and I have explored the island on our many visits.

My sister Julia and I branched out to try cruising, first round the Mediterranean which was amazing. The following year we went to Norway and almost made a Caribbean cruise!

I can now take the doctor's advice and REST! *Sylvia*



Sylvia with her sister Julia and some of the knitted family!



### **Perryfield**

The house called Perryfield on the Uxbridge Road (opposite the junction with Harlington Road) is yet another interesting listed building that has had some fascinating residents. It was built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century or possibly earlier and is now divided into two houses.

One of the residents of this house was William Perry born in 1747 in Chiswick. He was apprenticed to a surgeon aged 13 and in 1768 he sailed with Captain Cook on the Endeavour to the Southern Pacific Ocean as surgeon's mate. However in November 1770 he found himself getting instant promotion when the surgeon fell ill and died. He continued his career as surgeon in the Royal Navy eventually retiring in 1801 and then came to Hillingdon in 1805. He was also a writer of plays and several dictionaries. Dr Perry died in 1827 aged 80 and is buried in the churchyard.

Another notable resident of Perryfield was Walter Sidney Vale 1875-1939. Walter was a pupil of Uxbridge Grammar School. He was the organist at All Saints, Margaret Street London from 1907 - 1939 (he was succeeded by William Lloyd Webber - father of Andrew!). He wrote several pieces of music for the All Saints Choir and he was a Professor of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music. Walter wrote hymns tunes including one called Cowley and another called Hillingdon. Carol Williams is trying to track down these tunes and when we are allowed to sing again in church, I will ask if we can have these on the music list! Historic England suggests that Perryfield house has had a complicated building history judging by some of the architectural features, when you next pass by, take a look and you will see why! *Christine B*



Perryfield House



### **'Spreading the word for Eco Church**

I recently attended a meeting on 'Zoom', as our Eco Church representative. This was arranged by a team from the Willesden Diocese. The meeting discussed the Willesden Area Eco-Church Plan for Parishes, a document drawn up as a tool or resource to help parishes assess their environment response and to integrate creation care planning into the heart of their parish's life and mission.



***.'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'***

This is the fifth mark of mission for the Anglican Communion. There are five areas of action, Worship, Discipleship, Energy, Nature and Speaking out..

At St Johns we have taken action and achieved the Eco Church Silver award and it is because of this that we were asked to take part in the meeting. We are one of two local churches who have received the award, Holy Trinity in Northwood is the other with a Bronze award. We have a role to play to encourage other churches to take up the plan and continue with our own commitment to the care of creation.

The Eco group have met up to discuss the plan and look at what we can do as a church to help. We will share any outcomes with Alan and the Willesden team and all of you. If you are interested and would like to help or have any ideas for how we can encourage other churches and each other and further our commitment at St Johns with the focus on creation, the effects of climate change and how our actions can have an effect, contact Alan, Christine, Brenda or myself, Chris R.

#### **Tearfund "Hope for Creation" prayer.**

Lord, make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion. And teach us to partner you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable global neighbours. Amen

**Eco Tips from ARocha** - Looking after wildlife in hot weather. How we can help nature during the hot weather. Provide a shallow dish of water for thirsty birds, mammals and even insects, change this water daily. Top up your bird feeder and scatter some apple chunks for thrushes and other animals; provide a shady spot using rocks, stone slabs, tall grass for frogs, toads and newts

seeking shelter from the sun; top up your pond; water your plants (from a rain barrel) and lastly, keep it a bit messy! Wilder areas can provide shelter for a wide range of wildlife.

**Keep up to date** with environmental news using a phone app.

**BBC news app** - click My News, add Topics and select climate change, energy and nature and items on these subjects will appear at the top of your personalised news feed.

**On the Guardian App**, you can select and expand Environment on the left hand side menu to add topics including Climate change, wildlife and pollution. This is a way to keep informed for interest, prayer and action about the latest developments and news stories. *Christine R.*



### **Transcript of Bishop Pete's Talk to St. John's Hillingdon from The Book of Acts (Stephen) 12 July 2020**

Hello, St. John's. Bishop Pete here, very good to be with you and to be part of your morning service.

You've been in the middle of a sermon series on The Book of Acts and you've got to St. Stephen and you've asked me to have a think about Stephen as an example to us. You'll know that Stephen was the first person to be martyred, to be killed for his faith, in the New Testament Church and I'm not looking to wish that upon you, but I guess there are things we can learn from the way in which Stephen operated, the things, the resources he drew on as he lived his life and as he was faced with the imminence of persecution and of the threats that built up against him.

So here are four things about Stephen just to take away this morning:

**The first is that he was somebody who was full of grace and power.** Acts Ch. 6 says this: "Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people." That combination, I think, is a really important one, that grace is what God gives us, power is what we may have in ourselves, but, again, what God gives us in terms of the dynamic to live our faith and it wouldn't be the right way to live as a Christian unless we let God mediate any human power we've got by His own dynamic, His own power, the power of The Holy Spirit. So one secret about how Stephen lived, and how Stephen died, was that he knew the grace of God in his life and he was able to be a person for whom his power in The Holy Spirit's ministry was subjected to the way in which God wants us to live. When you are engaged with your friends and neighbours and they see who you are, are you somebody for whom the grace of God shines out? Is there something attractive about the fact that your life is lived in the power of God and dependent upon Him? That's an acid test for me, of what it means to be a Christian, and to have strength from God in difficult times.

**Secondly, we read about him that he was a person of signs and wonders.** "Stephen was full of grace and power,...." Acts 6 verse 8, ".....who did great wonders and signs among the people." We aren't told what those were. In the Acts church, all kinds of things went on in ways that aren't happening these days because the Acts church was a place where the reliance on The Holy Spirit was strong and where they needed to be able to show that God was with them in Jesus Christ.

What is the evidence in our lives that we show that God's at work? Well, these days it's not necessarily the flamboyant, so much as the signs of the fruit of The Spirit, of love and joy and peace and patience and self-control. Although, it may well be that God also enables you to be somebody who prays for others, who sees the work of God in dynamic things happening in your life. When we get back to 'normal,' whatever 'normal' is, I hope that St. John's will be thinking, "How can we be a church where signs of God's amazing power in The Holy Spirit can be seen? How will you make sure that prayer ministry, that caring for people, that wanting to see them transformed in their lives, can be a part of your ministry? Stephen's life evidenced the fact that God was with him and I guess our way of resilience in difficult times is to keep on drawing on that strength from God, to be people where God is at work by His Spirit.

**That's the third thing, that he was very much dependent upon The Holy Spirit.** There were people who argued with Stephen, but they couldn't withstand the wisdom, (Acts 6v10), and the Spirit with which he spoke. I don't think Stephen was particularly sophisticated, but he was given words to say, following the, kind of, promise that Jesus made with his disciples and in the Gospels that he was able to defend himself and argue for the faith. We are often asked that question, aren't we?

"If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

I think it's a great question to ask. If you were asked how to help someone find Jesus Christ, to tell them the story of the Gospel, have you got a testimony about your own life and something about the compelling reasons why Jesus is and said all the things he did and did the things he did and why he is the person who claims to be the Messiah? Can you articulate your faith? It's quite often worth thinking about how you would help each other do that. Have you perhaps tried in a Home Group situation just explaining the faith to each other? We need to be able to give a reason for why we believe what we believe. Part of the reason we do the teaching we do in church is to help each other with that sense of defending the faith in the face of adversaries. How can you help people know who Jesus Christ is? What will it mean for us to be people who are able to focus on that and, of course, Stephen was dependent upon the Holy Spirit in doing that. It's shown in his martyrdom which we read about in the following verses. He was someone who was transfigured by the power of the Spirit in their lives and we need to cultivate that dependence. I wonder how your life is at the moment in terms of the way in which you pray? Are you able to pray well in lockdown? Are you discovering more about the life of prayer? It's a good challenge to us, isn't it because when we are cut off from all the things that normally sustain us, when we are relying on Zoom to keep our spiritual lives going, we do need to know that there's, at the core of our being, a reality about God and drawing on the power of His Spirit. His spirit is real in our lives whether we are surrounded by others, or not, and we need to be able to perhaps explore that a bit more and so Stephen was dependent upon The Holy Spirit.

**He gave this intelligent defence of his faith, finally.** We can't argue people to faith, only God can bring people to faith. As I just said, it's important to be able to explain why it is we are Christians and faith is about telling people that the Christian faith is rational, has a sense of why people, intelligent people, have believed it over the centuries, that Jesus Christ and his life, death and resurrection are historical realities and that we have a faith that can be shared with others. One of the things that we perhaps don't do so much of these days is the Christian thing called 'apologetics,' which isn't about apologising for our faith, it's about saying, "We know the reasons why we are who we are. We have come to a decision about being followers of Jesus Christ based on reality." Of course, in the end, there's still a step of faith to be made. Your friend you're praying for, whom you want to become a Christian, may not have yet got to that stage. I love saying to people "You aren't a Christian yet, are you? I'm longing and praying for you to be so, " and having that sense, as Stephen did, that the faith was defensible is really important.

**So he was full of grace and power, he was a person of signs and wonders, he was dependent on The Holy Spirit and he gave an intelligent reason for his faith.**

**I want us as a church in London to rediscover that confidence.** I believe one of the things that's important for us as we enter this next decade, as we move onto the new vision in London for Capital Vision 2030, is to be able to be evangelists in our own right. I don't mean by being evangelists going out and bothering people at bus stops and being embarrassing. I do mean that in our work contexts, when it's appropriate, in other places, with our neighbours and friends, in the pub, among our peer groups, among our networks, we should be people for whom helping people find Jesus Christ becomes as natural as anything and for Stephen it was costly when he started doing this, but it was part of his lifeblood and part of the reason why he then became martyred because they called him a blasphemer. Well, that's not, I hope, our fate, but we do need to be able to give, as St. Paul said, a reason for the faith that's in us.

God bless you and may you be sustained by His Spirit over these coming weeks and months, Amen.

**Key Questions for reflection. (Best to answer in written form)**

- 1) a) What main things are Bishop Pete's words saying to you?
  - b) Is there anything you don't understand?
  - c) What do you need to do as a result?
- 2) a) What main things are Bishop Pete's words saying to us as Church?
  - b) what do we need to do as a result?

Please feel free to email in/dialogue.



**A Poem by Beryl Lakin from 'Words & Music' Group March 2020**

Planes were in their graveyard  
 Birds took back the sky  
 In the street shops were empty  
 And had no passer by

No white trails above us  
 No jet engines to be heard  
 The government taking statistics  
 Stay home is what we heard

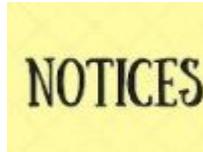
During this coronavirus  
 Earth made and meant to kill  
 The world has been a ghost town  
 More than ever have be ill

Birds sing out joyfully  
 No pollution, noise or threat  
 Now living the perfect life  
 Purest nature now they get

Everyone affected  
 Shops closed down  
 Stocks drained and stockpiled

In every shop in town

People dying  
The virus did so much harm  
but nature's animals survived  
And enjoyed a life more calm



### **Outdoor Service Sunday 26th July 2020**

On Sunday 26th July we welcome you to join us for an outdoor service at St John's in the Memorial Gardens at 4pm.

Should the weather be very poor, any news of cancellation will appear on the front page of our website from 3pm. Please sit on your own or in your family/bubble. We will be observing 2m distancing and sorry there are no toilet facilities available. Please pass the word on to anybody without internet access especially. Please take along a pen and piece of paper if you can, thank you!

### **How to be creative in your prayer journey using art.**

[click here](#) for a 30m video

#### **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

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

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