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## The New Fortnightly Online Link St. John's Hillingdon



No. 77 Sun 19th September - Sat 2nd October 2021  
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### **In this Issue!**

[Carol's Blog](#)

[Readings](#)

[ECO News](#)

[St John's Histories](#)

[Prayers](#)

[Bishop Pete](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch News](#)

[Notices](#)

### **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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### **St. John's Church,**

Royal Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3QP

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Last weekend was dominated by two events – both taking place in America. One was the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on that country on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2001 (more widely

known as the 9/11 attacks) and the other, in complete contrast, was the winning of the US Open Tennis by 18 year old Emma Raducanu.

I watched a documentary, made by the BBC, entitled “Surviving 9/11”. The programme maker interviewed various people who had been involved in those terrible events twenty years ago; not just survivors themselves, but the relatives of those who had lost family in the four attacks that day, as well as those who witnessed at first hand the tragedies unfolding before them. Many of those who survived the disasters felt guilt that they had lived while others close to them had not. It was powerful viewing and brought home to me that however much we plan our own lives, we have no real knowledge of what is in store for us. I thought of those words that Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount : ‘*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*’ and a few verses later : “*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*” Wonderful words, but easy to forget when we are in trouble and are worried about our future. We need to listen to what Jesus said in that Sermon, and put our faith in our Heavenly Father and really believe in his love for us all.

The second major event of the weekend – the tennis match where young Emma won the Ladies’ Singles was such an uplifting occasion – this young lady who had a megawatt smile and exuded sheer joy at playing her sport was exceptional. Amazing to think this was only her second tournament in a professional capacity! Emma showed that if you believe in yourself you can achieve anything. Add that to the belief that God works with us and loves each of us and we have the most wonderful support to deal with any problems that might arise in our lives; including grief, as experienced by those 9/11 survivors. I was reminded during the News footage of what the Queen quoted at the time (and which is inscribed on the Memorial to those UK citizens who died on that beautiful, bright sunny September day) “Grief is the price we pay for love”.

To finish on a slightly different note – I love the butterfly mobile which has been installed in the church. Huge thanks to Helen and Mark for the concept and the installation. I have always loved butterflies and to me they are a sign of how beauty can emerge from something plain, or even ugly (sorry caterpillars!). They are a reminder to us that we can all have new beginnings and new experiences. Once we shake off our caterpillar existence we can spread out wings and take off in any direction we choose. Let’s follow the example of butterflies and take off in our Christian faith – we can fly anywhere with God’s help! **Carol Williams**

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. **Amen.***



**Sunday 19th September.**

**Joseph in Prison**

**Genesis 39: 1-23**

39 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian

master.

3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favour in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. 13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,

14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." 16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.

17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger.

20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favour in the eyes of the prison warden.

22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

### **Sunday 26th September.**

#### **Rescue at Sea**

#### **Exodus 14: 5-7, 10-14 & 21-29**

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.

7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them.

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"

12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" 13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back

with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." 26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. 29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.



### What can WE do for our world?

There is so much in the news and in the media at the moment about the devastation around the world caused by climate change. It can seem overwhelming, and feel that to have any impact it must be for the world powers and big companies to act; that the efforts of each of us won't make much difference.

I have found buying products that are good for the environment and that don't have any plastic really difficult. Even buying fresh and unwrapped fruit and vegetables isn't necessarily a good thing. It depends where the product comes from and how it gets here, as to whether or not it adds to our carbon footprint.

But – and here is the quote that I try to go by

*I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."*

Ian and I try to do what we can, and I'm sure there is more that we could do but at the moment we

- Recycle, using our compost bins, the council recycling bags and food bin (which we twinned) and charity shops
- Cut down on eating meat
- Try to buy food and other items in recyclable containers (not easy!)
- Use loose tea (most of the time!) instead of tea bags as the bags contain plastic
- Use water butts to help with watering the garden
- Use re-usable/refillable water bottles and never buy bottled water
- Use Ecover washing up liquid (and we're going to try the washing liquid too – has anyone tried it?)
- Hang out the washing whenever possible and if not use an airer rather than a tumble dryer
- Turn off the TV at the socket each night
- Have showers rather than baths (we don't actually have a bath now! and I do miss it sometimes, mainly after a few hours of walking or gardening!)
- Planted an area of wild flowers
- Created a wildlife pond (still in progress)

If you have found other ways to help our planet, it would be great to hear about them. **Brenda Thomas**

## **Eco Action Group**

Some news on the work of the Eco Action Group following on from the event held at St John's Church.

I attended another meeting of the group to look at events leading up to Cop26 and to arrange another meeting in October.

This will take place on October 4th, 7.30-8.30pm on zoom to continue to encourage churches to sign up for Eco Church and provide support.

I have been given the task of contacting some churches in Hillingdon to give support and information. There are 16 in all on my list. Many do not have anyone to take on the role of Creation Care champion or to organise a group like ours. These are difficult times and we need to act to help our planet earth. Hopefully the work of the group will provide the encouragement and supports for churches to act.

Please pray for the group and churches in Hillingdon so that we can work together as an example to others in taking a stand against climate change. **Chris Rodrigues.**

### **This is a prayer from the Green Christian website from a booklet of prayers for Cop26 by the Rev'd Jon Swales.**

*Creator God Father of Compassion,*

*We thank you that we gather together as your sons and daughters. We thank you for the world that you have made.*

*For Soil and streams, Mountains and music, Flowers and fauna, Laughter and love, Dancing and daffodils, Flamingoes and food.*

*We thank you that we inhabit this world with non-human worshippers.*

*Elephants and eagles, Red kites and racoons.*

*Monkeys and macaws.*

*To you be all honor, glory and praise.*

*Creator God, Father of Compassion,*

*We are concerned about this world of yours And this world of ours It is our home.*

*In the face of the climate crisis our hearts are restless and our souls are sad.*

*Draw near to us as the healer of all hurts.*

*Father, we ask that you would lead and guide us*

*By the power and compassion of the Holy Spirit.*

*In these strange and difficult days,*

*we ask that you would mould us and shape us into the image of your son, and our saviour Jesus.*

*May we, like him, be people of justice.*

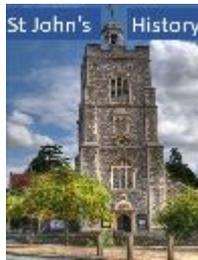
*Come Holy Spirit, We need you Come Holy Spirit, Fill us afresh Come Holy Spirit, Empower us.*

*In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen***

### **A prayer from the Archbishop of York for COP26**

*Creator God, giver of life, you sustain the earth and direct the nations. In this time of climate crisis, grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor.*

*Challenge us to change our lifestyles. Guide our leaders to take courageous action. Enable your church to be a beacon of hope. And foster within us a renewed vision of your purposes for your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by and for whom all things were made. **Amen***



### **Mystery Couple: John & Elizabeth Maud**

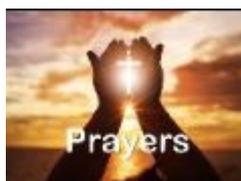
John & Elizabeth Maud both died in 1820 and I'm sorry to say that's about all I can tell you about this couple!!! However one thing of note is that we have a name of the sculptor on this monument which is not rare but uncommon. His name was John Tomlinson of Uxbridge, and he was quite prolific in the area. There are examples of his work in Uxbridge, Ickenham and West Drayton churches as well as Hillingdon. His work is nearly always a white panel on a black background with a small range of motifs, in this case of John and Elizabeth Maud, a draped urn.

The drape over the urn represents God's protection until resurrection, The urn itself represents a classical funeral urn used for cremains. A revived interest in classical Greece led to the urn being used a lot in cemetery symbolism, even though cremation was not terribly popular at this time (mid to late 1800s).

As well as the urn on this monument there are several others in the south aisle and also some outside on tombstones in the churchyard. **Christine Bartlett**



**Memorial of John and Elizabeth Maud**



For Phillip and Charley who will have their banns of marriage read at St John's over the next 2 weeks.

The family and friends of Kenneth who will all join together to remember Kenneth at St John's on Sat 25th September.

The family and friends of Mia who will be baptised at St John's on Sunday 26th September.



### **Bishop Pete**

I am sure you know that, sadly, Bishop Pete will be retiring from being our Bishop after 20 years service as Bishop of Willesden. He will still be working for the Diocese for a year or so longer in encouraging and envisioning the new 2030 Capital Vision.

Bishop Pete's Farewell Service is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at St John West Ealing, so do pray for Bishop Pete and the service, even though we can't all be there due to restricted numbers. (It looks like it is mainly clergy and Churchwardens).

There is an electronic card which we can sign on behalf of everyone. If you would like to add a personal message please email that in.



### **Autumn Nights approaching - Stay safe**

Autumn has arrived, the days are getting cooler and shorter and the evenings are getting darker earlier, which often leads to an increase in residential burglaries.

Improving your home security reduces the chance of you becoming the victim of a burglar so make sure your home is secure.

Burglars are opportunistic and observant; they will look for homes with windows or doors left open, or with vulnerable features they can exploit

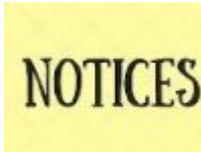
When you leave your home it's important to ensure you leave it as secure as possible.

#### **What to do before you leave your home:**

- Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes.
- Set your burglar alarm.
- Make sure the side and/or back gate is locked.
- Lock your shed or garage.
- Make sure that any valuables are not in sight.
- Use automatic timer-switches to turn a light on after dark so that your home appears occupied. This is particularly important during the winter months when the days are much shorter.
- Put keys out of reach of letterboxes.
- In the evening, shut the curtains and leave some lights on.
- Never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways.

If you are going to be away for days or weeks at a time, you will need to take additional action, such as cancelling newspaper and milk deliveries. Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains, or park on your drive. Use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night.

You can find more Burglary prevention advice for your home and garage/shed on the attached leaflet and on our webpage at: <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/protect-home-crime/>



**Message of Thanks from the Bartlett's.**

Please click [Here](#) for Page 1 and [Here](#) for page 2 to read a message from Christine and Brian or if you have time the letter is at the back of church on the notice board.

**Harvest Celebration**

We will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 26th September during our 10:30am Service. Join us via zoom by Clicking on the church image in the heading of the Link from Sunday 10am or on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808>

This year we will be supporting **Hillingdon Foodbank** and **Water Aid**.

To support **Hillingdon Foodbank** please follow this link to make a donation [Hillingdon Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

To donate or find out more about **Water Aid** click [Here](#)

If you would like to donate food items to the Foodbank

**They are in urgent need of:**

**LONG LIFE JUICE / SQUASH, UHT MILK / POWDERED MILK, TINNED FRUIT, TINNED MEAT AND FISH, NOODLES, BISCUITS, TINNED TOMATOES, RICE PUDDING/ CUSTARD and SOUPS**

**These can be dropped off to:**

**Hillingdon Food Bank  
28, Bakers Road  
Uxbridge  
UB8 1RG**

**On Tuesday-Thursday between 11am-1pm**

**A Special Thank you**

to Steven Alcock for his very generous and kind donation of 2 lawn mowers to the church yard team.

**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:

**STANDING ORDER**

Set up a Standing Order with your bank or

Hillingdon Parochial Church Council  
St. John's Church  
Royal Lane  
Uxbridge  
UB8 3QP

building society using these details:  
Barclays Bank, 142 High St,  
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Account No: 20465615

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