



# ***SAINTS ALIVE!***

*The Parish Magazine of  
All Saints' Church, North Hillingdon UB10 9BT*



**December 2025**  
**£1.**



**THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS,  
North Hillingdon, UB10 9BT  
The Church of England  
Deanery of Hillingdon & Diocese of London**

**THE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

All Saints' Church aims to be a welcoming Anglican community, a place of prayer and worship, providing a ministry to all and where people gather to share the love of Jesus Christ.

**NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES**

**SAID HOLY COMMUNION**

**8.00 am**

**HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE WITH HYMNS**

**10.00 am**

Followed by refreshments in the Church Hall next door, at which **all (and especially any visitors)** are very welcome.

One Sunday each month:

**10.00 am**

Sung Holy Communion (*in a less formal style*)

**USUAL WEEKDAY TIMES**

Wednesday Said Holy Communion Service  
(followed by tea and cake in the Hall)

**10.00 am**

Please see the Parish Website or the weekly ***Parish Bulletin*** on the church porch notice-board for full details or telephone the Vicarage (01895 262024).

*Parish Website:* [www.allsaintsnorthhillington.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsnorthhillington.co.uk)

*Facebook:* [www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon](https://www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon)

*Twitter / X:* @ASHillingdon

Enquiries concerning Baptisms, Banns, Marriages or other parish business can be made during Vestry Hour in church, which is normally on Saturdays between 10:00 and 11.00am. Please contact Rev Ulric Gerry on 01895 262024 or [allsaintshillingdon@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintshillingdon@gmail.com)

# *A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE*



Dear Saints

Moving from Casual to Meaningful Conversations This Christmas

As we catch up with friends, family, and colleagues this Christmas, how can we gently move from casual chat to deeper, more meaningful spiritual conversations?

## **1) Start With Genuine Interest**

Have no agenda except getting to know the person and showing love. The FROG questions can help begin relaxed conversations:

- Friends & Family: Tell me about your family... what's home like?
- Recreation: What do you do for fun?
- Occupation: What kind of work do you do? Do you enjoy it?
- Goals & Gifts: What are you passionate about? What are your hopes right now?

## **2) Let Curiosity Deepen the Conversation**

Meaningful conversations grow out of relationships and good listening. Become an intentional question-asker. People open up about their passions and pains when they feel safe.

Gentle follow-up questions such as:

- What makes you passionate about ...?
- Do you ever feel like there's more to life than work and money?
- What are you worried about in the world / your life?

## **3) Inviting God Into the Conversation**

Spiritual conversations flow naturally from meaningful ones. Look for simple moments to connect the discussion with faith:

- Are you a spiritual person?
- Did you grow up with any experience of church or faith?
- Do you ever pray?
- Has God ever felt close in a difficult time?

If appropriate, most people welcome prayer; simply offer it if it feels right. You may also (practice in advance) sharing a short "15-second story" of how God has helped you at some moment in your life.

## **4) An Invitation to Explore**

If someone shows interest, you might gently ask them if they want to come to a service, or just our mid-week coffee morning. The aim is simply to love people well, notice where God may already be at work, and be ready, when the moment is right, to share the hope we have.



May we all deepen our relationships this Christmas.

Fr Ulric Gerry



# EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

**Wednesdays at 10:30am - Coffee, Cake and Companionship  
in the Hall**

## December

7<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm – Stardust Big Band Christmas Concert  
(details on p14)



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Sunday 14th December**

5pm Lessons and Carols (followed by seasonal refreshments in the Hall)

**Christmas Eve**

5pm Christingle  
11.15pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**

10am Family Eucharist

## January

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – The Epiphany

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – NHWS (Brown book) service

## February

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Candlemas



# St. Helen's College

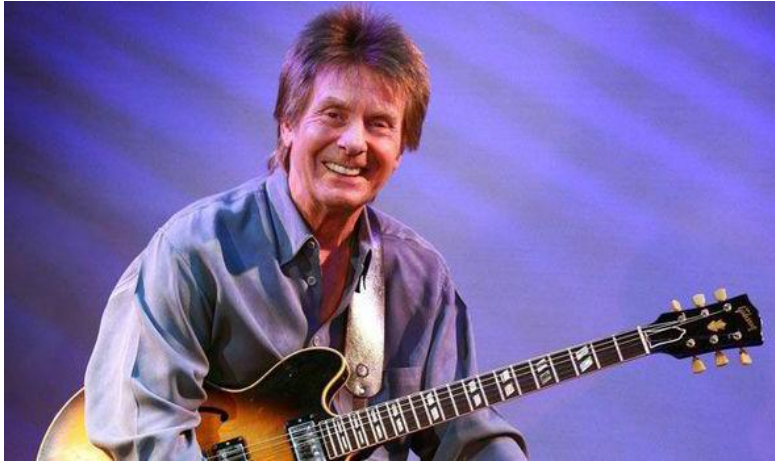
Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX  
Independent School for boys and girls aged 2 - 11



## Come And See EXCELLENCE In Action

Please telephone **01895 234371** to make an appointment  
**[www.sthelenscollege.com](http://www.sthelenscollege.com)**

## Meeting the Pop Singer Joe Brown



In the November 2025 edition of 'Saint's Alive' I alluded to a story of having met the famous Pop Singer Joe Brown (of Joe Brown and the Bruvvers fame) on the footplate of the steam locomotive at the Late Sir William McAlpine's private railway museum at Fawley near Henley-on-Thames.

Having left this story as a bit of a cliffhanger I figured that I really needed to explain more!

Sir William started his private museum and steam railway on his 250-acre estate in the mid 1960's when his family firm of civil engineering contractors 'Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd.' was about to get rid of their last steam locomotive. Apparently, he asked the yard foreman how much it would fetch for scrap and when told it would raise about £100, he got out his cheque book and wrote a cheque for that amount and told the foreman to send it to his home. Having acquired the locomotive, Sir William then set about creating a "Garden Railway" for it to run on.

The Fawley Hill Railway is a full-size (Standard Gauge) railway that runs for about 1¼ miles through his estate and includes the steepest steam-worked adhesion standard gauge railway in the world with a ruling gradient of 1:13! Driving the train on this railway is not for the faint-hearted.

One of the things I like to do when driving the steam loco is to set myself little challenges to make things a bit more interesting, such as carrying out a hill start with a full load of passengers on the steepest part of the line, or trying to control the train so that it rolls to a halt at exactly the right position for the water tower without using the brakes.

Every year Sir William and Lady Judy McAlpine would host a rather lavish garden party for some of his many friends and acquaintances and on one particular occasion, one of the guests was Joe Brown whom we invited to have a ride on the footplate of the locomotive.

This invitation was gratefully accepted as Joe, before he became famous as a pop singer, was a locomotive fireman on the Eastern Region of British Railways based



at Stratford Shed in East London. Naturally we were only too happy to grant his request and I ended up getting the gig to drive with Joe as my passenger.

As the train was gingerly making its way down the fearsome gradient, I couldn't help thinking that the famous bloke on the other side of the loco probably knew more about what I should be doing than I did!

At the far end of the line is a station building, that is just for show as passengers are not allowed to alight from the train during their ride, and the line continues for about a hundred yards beyond the platform before the buffer stop is reached. One of my little games is to continue beyond the platform to the very end of the line so that the passengers get to ride over the full extent of the line, and this was what I chose to do with Joe on the footplate. As the train rolled gently towards the buffer stops, Joe leaned out of the cab, looked across at me and said, in his best East End London accent, "Ere, you do realise there's a stop block down 'ere, don't ya mate!"



My repost was "It's OK, Joe, I'm just trying to see how close I can get to the buffers without hitting them!", which elicited the response from Joe of "Oo you vandal!"

I count myself very lucky to have been described as a vandal by such a famous pop star.

The picture shows me doing a hill start on the 1:13 gradient with my son Simon firing the locomotive in 2021 whilst being filmed by HRH Princess Anne on her mobile phone.

## Mark Hamlin

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### Community notes!



Use your Hillingdon First card to enjoy free parking in council-owned car parks and on-street parking bays on the following dates:

- Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December
- Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 December

And don't forget to check the changes in your rubbish and recycling collection days this Christmas and New Year.

<https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/bank-holiday-collections>

## AN ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS .....WHAT IF .....?

.....the birth of Jesus had been attended by Three Wise **Women** instead of Three Wise Men?

They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought practical gifts.

But what would they have said as they left?

“Did you see the sandals Mary was wearing with that gown?”

“The baby doesn’t look anything like Joseph!”

“Virgin?! Who’s she kidding? I knew her in school!”

“Can you believe they allowed all those disgusting animals in there?”

“I heard that Joseph isn’t even working at the moment!”

“I wouldn’t bet on getting your casserole dish back in a hurry!”

Submitted by Chris Clark

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## Honouring a Ward Councillor



On a bright morning at the end of October, I was delighted to be invited to represent the residents of the Oak Farm Estate at a special ceremony to remember our past Ward Councillor, Pat Jackson.

In Knight's Gardens, at the far eastern corner of Hillingdon East Ward, Hillingdon's Mayor Cllr Philip Corthorne joined the Leader and Deputy Leader of Hillingdon Council,

our three local Ward Councillors and members of Cllr Pat Jackson's family. In Cllr Pat's memory, a footpath across the small park was named in her honour, with a sign at each end – Uxbridge Road to Hewens Road.

The Mayor, the Councillors and a member of Cllr Pat's family all said a few words about her interest in, and hard work for, 'her' ward and especially for children and green spaces. Then the Mayor unveiled the sign at the Hewens Road entrance, and photographs were captured.

## Jane Turnbull – Chair of Oak Farm Residents Association

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### Community Library



We now have, based in the hall, a Community Library for the use of us all.

It is to be found on the left-hand work surface at the back of the hall.

Please make use of it to either take, borrow or swap any of the books to be found there.

Anyone is welcome to use it and hopefully get pleasure from doing so.

Lesley Thompson

## Confirmation Service



Our church was alive with hope and celebration on November 16<sup>th</sup> as we gathered to witness our wonderful Confirmation candidates affirm their faith and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It was a truly uplifting service - one of those mornings where you can feel God's love woven into every prayer, every hymn, every smile.

A heartfelt thank you to the Bishop of Willesden for presiding so graciously and prayerfully over the service. His words of encouragement, wisdom, and blessing made the occasion even more meaningful, and we are deeply grateful for his presence with us.

Congratulations to all our candidates – Oliver, Joseph, Linda, Hazel and Stanley. Your courage, commitment, and joy shone brightly. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you and strengthen you.

Let us hold one another in prayer as we journey forward in faith — renewed, uplifted, and full of gratitude.

**Anne Robinson**

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## Coffee Morning Christmas Party

We are holding our usual Coffee Morning on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – the last one of the year, and our Christmas Party, which everyone is welcome to attend.

We shall have a game of bingo, a raffle, and a Secret Santa – if you would like to take part, just bring a wrapped gift of between £5-£10.

We shall also have some party food, as well as the usual cakes, so if anyone can donate any food, or a bottle of bubbles, please let me know.

All money raised goes to church funds so please come and support if you can.

**Lesley Thompson**

## EVENTS IN HILLINGDON



Sleeping Beauty Christmas Panto at the Compass Theatre – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2-3pm – Festive Tea Dance at the Battle of Britain Bunker

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm – Stardust Big Band Christmas

concert in church (see poster in magazine).

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30-11.30am – The Ruislip Belles and Beaux (including our Janet!) perform Christmas songs at South Ruislip Library. They're also performing at Manor Farm Library on the 19<sup>th</sup> December!

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 10am-12pm – Christmas Coffee Morning at Oak Farm Library (with singalong, hot drink and mince pies)

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1-2pm – The RAF Spitfires Choir perform a free concert at the Battle of Britain Bunker.

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### From Neighbourhood Watch Alerts



Between April and September 2025, Action Fraud has received 2,790 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payment scams, with victims reporting losses totalling over £27,000.

Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically - you do not need to do anything. If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam.



## Met Engage



Weekly, I receive emails from Met Engage, which is a new website for the local police and community to communicate with each other.

I had completed their questionnaire which asked the local community to tell the police what local residents concerns were, and I replied that mine were, "Dangerous Driving, Fraud, Scams and Theft"

On 25 November 2025 I received this email with details of a local police action:

“Officers conducted a traffic enforcement operation at Long Lane junction with Tudor Way. The location was selected based on community feedback and collision data analysis.

**Purpose: Improve road safety**

Target dangerous driving and traffic offences

Ensure compliance with traffic laws

**Outcome:**

Two tickets issued for drivers using mobile phones while driving.

Additional tickets issued for failure to wear a seat belt and driving without insurance.

The operation supports our ongoing commitment to road safety and community engagement.”

Should you wish to become a member of Met Engage type this link into your web browser: <https://www.metengage.co.uk/Content/Pages/Sign-Up>

You will be asked for your name, postcode and email address and there is NO charge to join.

The web site has many links to advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Brian Hillier

## Recipe of the month

### Puff Pastry Mincemeat Swirls



#### Ingredients:

1 pack of ready rolled puff pastry  
1 jar of mincemeat (approx 400g)  
30-50g chopped walnuts (optional)  
1 large orange  
Handful of flaked almonds optional)  
1 beaten egg  
Icing sugar for dusting

#### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 200c (maybe a bit lower if a fan oven) or gas mark 6.
2. Unroll the pastry and spread the mincemeat over the pastry leaving a spare small edge at the far end.
3. If using walnuts, scatter them over, plus the zest of the orange.
4. Brush the beaten egg along the spare edge.
5. Roll the pastry up lengthwise like a swiss roll - then cut into approx 20 even slices (the less messy way is to cover your baking sheet with baking paper then place the swirls on it cut side up).
6. Brush the edges of the swirls with the beaten egg and sprinkle on the flaked almonds.
7. Bake in the oven for approx 10-12 mins until golden then dust with the icing sugar and enjoy.

This is a great alternative to mince pies as so much easier but just as tasty.

Lesley Thompson



# Swing *into* Christmas

with Stardust Big Band

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All Saints' Church, North Hillingdon  
Long Lane, UB10 9PE

Tickets £10 Adult, £8 Conc.  
under 12's free

(Tickets available on the door subject to availability)

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**SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 6PM**

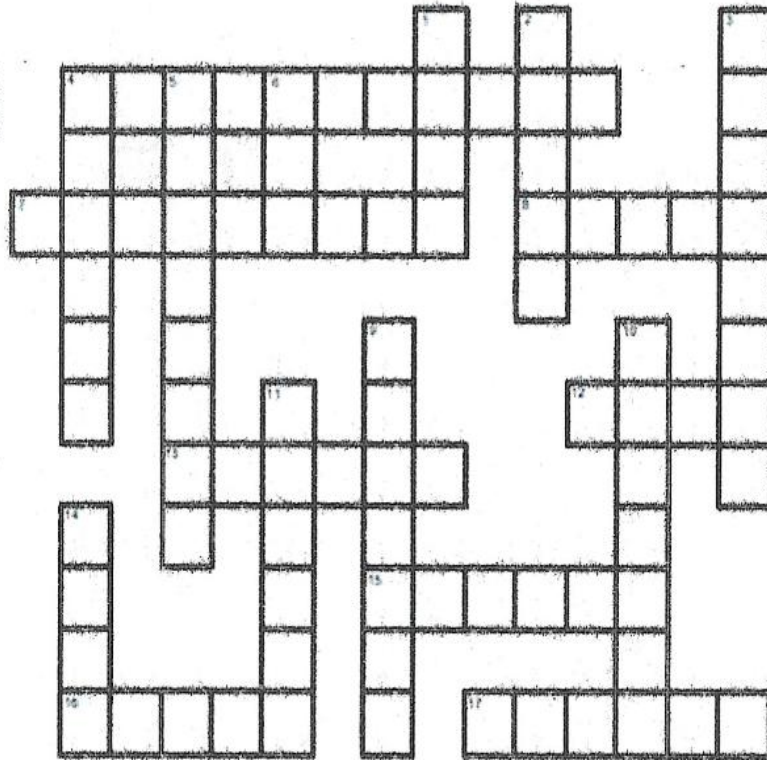
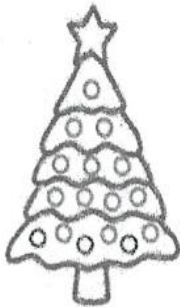
DOORS OPEN 5:45PM

Tickets available at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

🔍 'STARDUST BIG BAND'



# Christmas Crossword



## Across

4. A type of biscuit you can build a house out of
7. You kiss under this plant
8. A toy that you might get that runs on a track
12. You eat this chocolatey log at Christmas
13. A type of meat eaten at Christmas
15. You decorate the tree with this sparkly decoration
16. A gathering of people having fun
17. You get fairy ones of these on a Christmas tree

## Down

1. You might have an evergreen or artificial one of these covered in decorations
2. Another name for Father Christmas
3. These are used to pull a sleigh at Christmas
4. Fictional character that hates Christmas
5. A play that tells the story of the birth of Jesus
6. The day before Christmas day
9. You wear this ugly knitted item at Christmas
10. Reindeer with a red nose
11. A famous snowman name
14. You do this to presents before you give them to someone



Providing residential, dementia and respite care our purpose-built care home in Hillingdon, Uxbridge is spacious and luxurious with several dining areas, luxury hair and nail salon, private cinema and relaxing Bistro. It's the perfect place to enjoy life and entertain friends and family.

We are focused on the happiness of each and every one of our residents and ensuring they make the most of the wonderful facilities on offer at Ryefield Court. This includes a full and varied timetable of activities for all to enjoy. Our priority is to deliver the best care possible. Tending to each individual's desires and needs and our wonderful staff are always on hand to deliver outstanding care.

**To learn more about life at Ryefield Court or arrange a visit contact Tim Woolford  
our Customer Relations Manager**

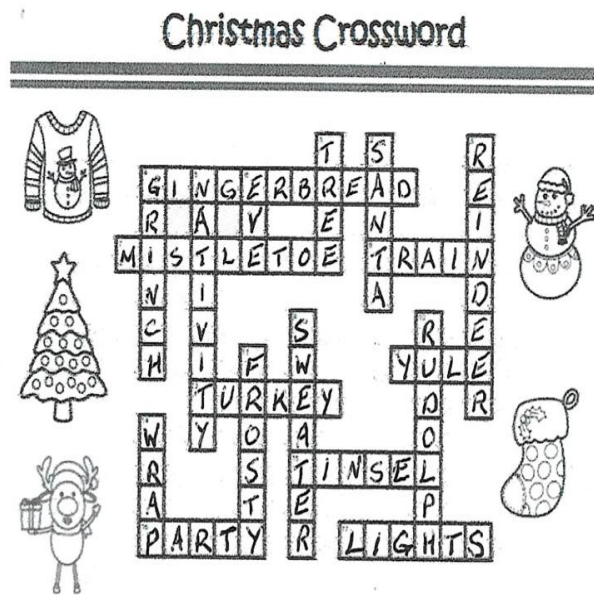
**01895 707 106   [tim.woolford@berkleycaregroup.co.uk](mailto:tim.woolford@berkleycaregroup.co.uk)**



Ryefield Court Care Home  
Ryefield Avenue  
Uxbridge UB10 9DE



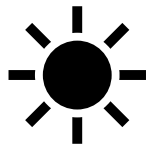
## Answers



This space could be working for **your** business. Our Magazine also appears on the Parish Website – [www.allsaintsnorthhillindon.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsnorthhillindon.co.uk)

For advertising rates, please contact  
Rev. Ulric  
[ulricgerry@icloud.com](mailto:ulricgerry@icloud.com)

## Punny Plaice



Cartoonist found dead in home.

Details are sketchy.

The Editorial team for Saints Alive is Anne Robinson (Editor), Jane Turnbull (Print and Distribution) and Lesley Thompson.

Articles for the January magazine need to reach us by **2<sup>nd</sup> January** at [saintsalive.editor@gmail.com](mailto:saintsalive.editor@gmail.com)

Have **you** got an item to share with our readers?  
We need more contributions to keep the magazine going.  
Could **YOU** provide an article? Or a photo for our front cover?





## **HAVEN**

### **Funeral Services.**

**Our dedicated teams at our Acton, Hayes, Hillingdon and Northwood Hills funeral homes are committed to creating tailored funerals that reflect the unique life of your loved one. We can be contacted 24 hours a day, by telephone, and are here to discuss your needs. Or if you prefer, we can visit your home to discuss funeral arrangements.**

**390 Long Lane, Uxbridge UB10 9PG**  
**01895 540154**

# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

## NORTH HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX UB10 9BT

### PARISH DIRECTORY

<b>Parish Priest</b>	<b>Rev'd Ulric Gerry</b>	01895 262024
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<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Mr John Clarke</b> 91 Victoria Avenue UB10 9AJ <b>Mrs Lesley Thompson</b> 1 Sedgwick Avenue UB10 9DF	01895 812374  07742 326 667
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<b>Sacristans</b>	Vacant	

**SAINTS ALIVE!** is the Parish Magazine of All Saints' Church, North Hillingdon UB10 9BT and is published eleven times annually, with a two-month edition over the summer.

Any opinions expressed in articles in *Saints Alive!* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints.



