



SAINTS ALIVE!

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



November 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

Facebook: 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

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE



Dear Saints,

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.”

When I first heard this, I thought, how wonderful it would be to not grow old. Of course, to grow old is a gift. I was so aware of this this Friday, at the funeral of an 18-year-old young man, shot dead outside a nightclub. Also of Wayne Broadhurst, a local bin-man walking his dog on a sunny afternoon, stabbed to death by a stranger whilst trying to protect others, a minute’s walk down the street.

This month, we observe Remembrance Day, when we remember over 1.4 million British men and women who gave their lives for us in the first and second World Wars, and many others since then. They gave their lives for peace, freedom, decency, fair play, honesty, integrity, family, hard work, and tolerance, values formed by a millennium of Christian teaching. I wonder what they would think of lawless modern Britain, the fare-dodging and shoplifting, the assaults, rapes, grooming gangs, and murders.

Talking to you, there is a lot of fear and anger, particularly around illegal migration. A sense of powerlessness. Of not being listened to by successive governments. Being silenced, ignored and gaslit by the media and authorities. Of our government failing to safeguard woman and girls. We are a tolerant nation, but people have a right to be angry. The fear is this anger will slip into hate, racism, xenophobia and violence.

Christians have always changed society through prayer and social action. This is the challenge for the Church. We need to continue to have compassion for the stranger (Matt 25v35) *but also* insist on the safeguarding of our society and streets, especially vulnerable women and girls. We need to see everyone as made in the image of God, treating them as individuals, *yet* hold awareness that other cultures have very different values towards human life and towards women. And we need to have pragmatic conversations about the economic and social costs, and the effects on the poorest and marginalised in our own society.

A few verses come to mind. Firstly, the ‘*secret power of the lawless one*’ at work in our society (2 Thess 2) is increasingly evident. Secondly, ‘*our battle is not against flesh and blood but the (demonic) principalities and powers*’ (Eph 6v12); the battle that our forefathers fought against evil, for freedom of this land, needs to be taken up in every generation. And we have been caught sleeping. ‘*In your anger do not sin*’ (Eph 4v26). Instead, we need to pray and act. Regarding safeguarding, keep contacting your MP, remember the story of the persistent widow. Regarding welcoming the stranger, get involved in refugee support groups, language lessons, get to know your neighbours on your street. Pray for their salvation. In our Deanery, there is already an Iranian congregation of converts meeting weekly.

The gospel message is that grace, love and justice will ultimately prevail. As the world gets darker, this light shines even brighter. May the grace of God be with you.



May the grace of God be with you,

Fr Ulric Gerry

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

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

November

2nd November at 5pm - **All Souls** Service with lighting of candles to remember the departed

4th November at 11am - Ryefield Court Communion Service

9th November at 10am - **Remembrance** Service with laying of wreaths

16th November at 10am – **Confirmation** Service with the Bishop of Willesden

22nd November (12pm-3pm) Christmas Bazaar

December

7th December at 6.30pm – Stardust Big Band Christmas Concert

A festive poster for Christmas Services at All Saints Church. The title 'CHRISTMAS SERVICES' is prominently displayed in a large, black, serif font, centered at the top. The text is framed by decorative holly leaves and red berries in the corners. Below the title, on the left side, are three grey rectangular boxes containing the dates and times of the services: 'Sunday 14th December' (5pm Lessons and Carols), 'Christmas Eve' (4pm Christingle and 11.15pm Midnight Mass), and 'Christmas Day' (10am Family Eucharist). On the right side, there is a colorful illustration of a church building with a blue roof, yellow stars, and a cross. In the foreground, a family consisting of a man in a green jacket, a woman in a pink dress, and two children in blue and green dresses are shown from behind, looking towards the church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 14th December
5pm Lessons and Carols (followed by seasonal refreshments in the Hall)

Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle
11.15pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
10am Family Eucharist



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

Book Launch – ‘Bryan Organ Picturing People’



On 10th September, Helen and I attended a Book Launch Party at the Redfern Gallery near Bond Street for a book entitled ‘Bryan Organ Picturing People’ which tells the story of the artist who has painted some of the most eminent and fascinating people of the 2nd half of the 20th Century.

Although Bryan is highly regarded within the Art World (he is the most prolific commissioned artist in the National Portrait Gallery) he is largely unknown to the public having eschewed the limelight for the last 55 years, largely as a result of the adverse public reaction to his controversial painting of Princess Margaret in 1970.

Some of the other famous people that he has painted include the late Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Diana, Prince Charles (now the King), Elton John, Malcolm Muggeridge, Richard Attenborough, Lester Piggott, A Hawker Harrier for the Royal Air Force Museum and many others.

Over the years Bryan has also enjoyed painting interesting ordinary people such as an elderly couple who kept racing pigeons and who's portrait now hangs in the collection of Elton John.

Because of his aversion to publicity the book is the first retrospective ever published of his life's work.

The reason for our attendance at the Book Launch was that Bryan is currently working on a 6' x 4' canvas entitled ‘The Engine Driver’ and his studio sketch of the subject is depicted in the book. The subject of The Engine Driver is me!

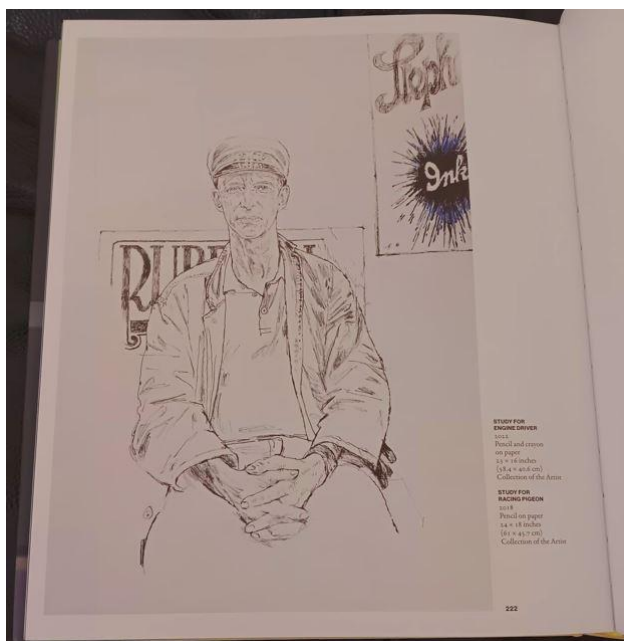
So how does my portrait come to be currently sitting on the Easel of one of the most eminent portrait artists of today?

Some of you may already know that I am a volunteer Steam Locomotive Driver at the Private Railway Museum of the Late Sir William McAlpine Bt. near Henley on Thames. This is a 1¼ mile railway that is renowned as being the steepest standard gauge adhesion steam railway in the world with a ruling gradient of 1:13!!

Before his death in 2018 Sir William and Lady Judy McAlpine used to host a private garden party every year for his friends and acquaintances meaning that, over the years, I have met many well-known people including HRH Prince Michael of Kent (I can lay claim to being a Royal Train Driver having stood shoulder to shoulder with HRH in the cab of the steam loco on 2 separate occasions), the pop singer Joe Brown (who famously called me a vandal but that is another story), Paul Atterbury (from the Antiques Roadshow), Rowan Atkinson, Bill Bailey, Louis De Rothschild (a personal friend of the late Queen) and many more.

At the garden party in 2017 I was relaxing on a bench on the platform of the Station after driving a trip along the line when I was approached by an elderly gentleman who asked if I would mind him taking a few pictures of me as he was keen to paint my portrait. Naturally I agreed and thought no more about it. Indeed, when I received a, slightly mysterious, phone call in 2024 from the aforementioned gentleman I had absolutely no recollection of the meeting.

To cut a long story short, in July this year Helen and I paid a visit to Bryan's studio near Market Harborough to meet him and his wife Sandra (also an eminent portrait artist in her own right) to see the actual painting underway, and Bryan has since kept me informed of progress and key events such as the book launch party.



At the book launch, the Editor of the book, Charlotte Mullins, was giving a brief history of Bryan's work to the assembled audience and she mentioned that Bryan is still working on new works despite being 90 so it was with great pride that I introduced myself to her as the subject of his current portrait work. Her response was priceless when she commented that she easily recognised me as I had been staring down over her shoulder all the time that she had been working with Bryan on the design of the book.

The Studio Sketch of me was on display in the Redfern Gallery with a slightly scary price tag on it of £5000 so I fear that the finished painting will be way outside my price range but maybe I might be able to haggle him down a bit so that I might be able to afford the Studio Sketch!

Mark Hamlin

There are many reasons to visit your local library including free access to books, information, digital newspapers and magazines, entertainment, and warm community spaces.

At **Oak Farm Library**, on the corner of Long Lane and Sutton Court Road, their weekly activities include a popular reading group, free exercise classes for the over 65s, and 'Dementia Friends Reminiscence' sessions (Thursdays).

Ask a member of staff for more information or give them a call on **01895 556242**.

Opening times:

Mon, Thurs (late opening) 10am to 7pm
Tues, Weds, Fri 10am to 5pm
Sat 10am to 4pm
Sun CLOSED



What's on... at Oak Farm Library
Adult Offer

IT Taster Sessions
On demand, please contact staff to book a session.

Monday	South Asian Dance Class (<i>2nd Mon of month</i>) 11-midday and 12-1
Tuesday	Strength and Balance Exercise Class 11:35-12:20pm and 12:20pm-13:00pm
Wednesday	Scrabble 11-1pm Knit and Crochet Group 1-3pm
Thursday	Sit Down Exercise 11-midday and 12-1pm Dementia Friends Sessions 2-3pm
Friday	Coffee Mornings 10.30-12pm (<i>Alternate Fri</i>) Knit and Crochet Group 11am - 1pm Men's Cancer Support Group 1-2pm (<i>Last Friday of the month</i>) All Male Games Group 2-3pm Women's Cancer Support Group 2-3pm (<i>Last Friday of the month</i>)

For more information please speak to a member of staff or visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries.

 www.hillingdon.gov.uk/libraries



Book review

Longbourn by Jo Baker



It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jane Austen spin off novels are cashing in on the association with the best-selling author and are not always that good.

Longbourn by Jo Baker though is the exception. It's a reimagining of *Pride and Prejudice* not told from the viewpoint of the Bennet sisters but of the servants who labour at Longbourn House.

We see the, at times, seemingly spoiled Bennet family through the lens of Sarah - and orphan who came to Longbourn as a child. Sarah was taken in by the gruff but maternal housekeeper Mrs Hill who has a soft heart and is committed totally to the Bennet family. Only much later do we find out why she is so committed, and we may never see Mr Bennet in quite the same way again.

The novel is often about the drudgery of Sarah's life as she washes Elizabeth Bennet's muddy dresses by hand - she wouldn't go gambolling across the muddy fields if she had to wash the hems herself thinks Sarah to herself.

But Sarah's small life, that is confined to Longbourn village, opens up when a mysterious footman, James Smith, starts working at the house.

This is a beautifully written stand-alone novel that makes you see the Bennet family in quite a different light. They may be humble compared to their Netherfield neighbours and dependent on a rich husband for a home and living. But if the girls successfully find a rich husband and move away, the servants' also have no guarantees of a home or living. Their position is precarious and depends on the new owner of Longbourn hence the housekeeper goes out of her way to find Mr Collins the best sheets when he visits.

This is a good read, particularly for fans of *Pride and Prejudice*, even though it turns the Bennet sisters' world view on its head.

Fiona Robinson-Morey

ALL SAINTS HILLINGDON

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

22 NOVEMBER
12PM - 3PM

BBQ - REFRESHMENTS
FATHER CHRISTMAS - TOYS
NEW GIFTS - BOOKS - CAKES
PRIZES

£1 ENTRY | GRAND OPENING BY MAYOR OF HILLINGDON

All Saints Church Hall
Long Lane, Hillingdon

EVENTS IN HILLINGDON

Select days throughout month - Digital Skills Workshops at Uxbridge Library



5th – 7th November at 7.45pm – Oscar Wilde's social comedy 'An Ideal Husband' at the Compass Theatre

Thursday 6th November, 11am-3pm - Electrical Fixing and Training Workshop for unemployed people in Hillingdon to gain a certificate in electrical repairs and PAT testing

Thursday 6th November, 1pm-3pm- Tea Dance at the Compass Theatre

Friday 7th November, 2.30pm-3.30pm – Coffee and Crime event with author Tony Kent at Manor Farm Library

12th – 16th November at 7.30pm – Disney's Beauty and the Beast at Winston Churchill Theatre

Wednesday 19th November – A night of Barry Manilow music at Winston Churchill Theatre



Friday 21st November, 2.30pm-3.30pm – Coffee and Crime event with bestselling author Nicola Upson.

Sunday 23rd November – Band of the RAF Regiment perform at Winston Churchill Theatre

Friday 28th November at 6pm – Carols at the Christmas light switch-on on the Civic Centre forecourt

Thank you!

With many thanks to John Arnold and the Social Committee for another fantastic Firework Party this year – we will update you with the amount raised next month.

Thank you to everyone who came to support this wonderful annual event.

Sabbath Poem I (1979) by Wendell Berry



I go among trees and sit still.
All my stirring becomes quiet
around me like circles on water.
My tasks lie in their places
where I left them, asleep like cattle.

Then what is afraid of me comes
and lives a while in my sight.
What it fears in me leaves me,
and the fear of me leaves it.
It sings, and I hear its song.

Then what I am afraid of comes.
I live for a while in its sight.
What I fear in it leaves it,
and the fear of it leaves me.
It sings, and I hear its song.

After days of labour,
mute in my consternations,
I hear my song at last,
and I sing it. As we sing,
the day turns, the trees move.

This sweet poem was recommended by a friend. It speaks of when we finally take the time to be still and seek the Lord's presence, laying our busyness aside. The second verse is about those we have hurt, the third about facing our fears, the fourth about finding that peace beyond understanding.

Fr Ulric

Recipe of the month

Mincemeat shortbread



Ingredients:

250g of butter
125g caster sugar
350g of plain flour
1 tsp of vanilla extract
300g of mincemeat (which is most jars)

Topping:

1 tsp of ground cinnamon
3 tsps of caster sugar

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180c or gas mark 4 and line an 8 inch square tin with baking paper.
2. Cream the butter and sugar in a mixing bowl until light and fluffy, then mix in the vanilla.
3. Sieve in the flour and stir well until it forms a crumbly dough but don't overmix.
4. Divide the dough into two and press one half into the base of the tin, then spread the mincemeat on top. Roll out the remaining half and lay gently over the mincemeat - a bit fiddly but worth the effort.
5. Make holes with a fork all over the top and bake for 30-35 minutes until golden brown.
6. If you want to add the topping then mix the cinnamon and sugar together and sprinkle over the shortbread as soon as it is out of the oven - you can leave out the cinnamon if you prefer. Slice into pieces whilst still in the tin and leave to cool before removing.

A delicious piece of shortbread to have, especially at this time of year as mincemeat is so readily available. Make and enjoy.

Lesley Thompson



Swing into Christmas

with Stardust Big Band

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)

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 6PM

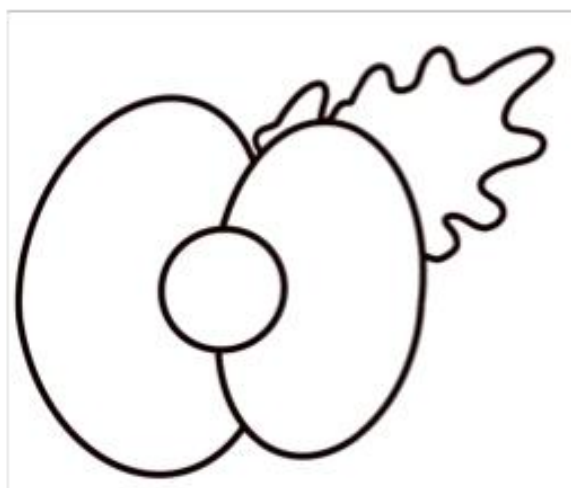
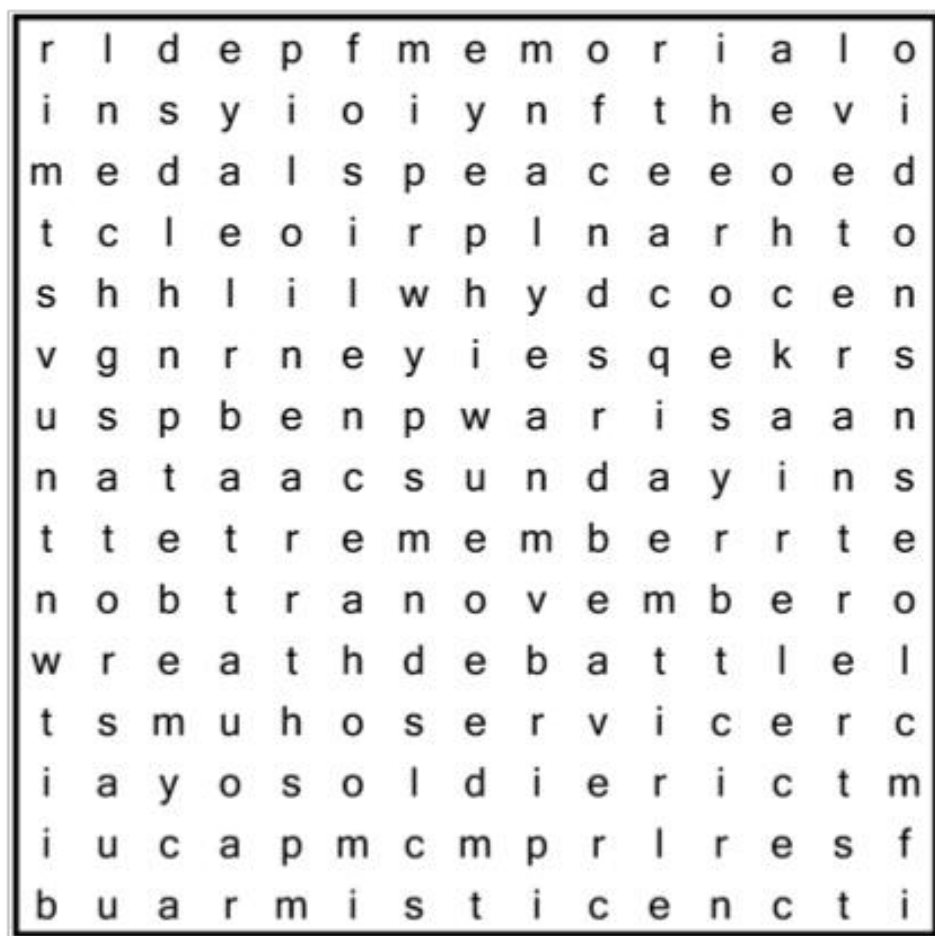
DOORS OPEN 5:45PM

Tickets available at
www.ticketsource.co.uk

🔍 'STARDUST BIG BAND'



Remembrance Day Word Search



Poppy	Remember
Armistice	Field
Peace	Silence
Wreath	Soldier
Sunday	Memorial
November	Service
Heroes	Parade
Medal	Battle
War	Veteran

www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk



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**

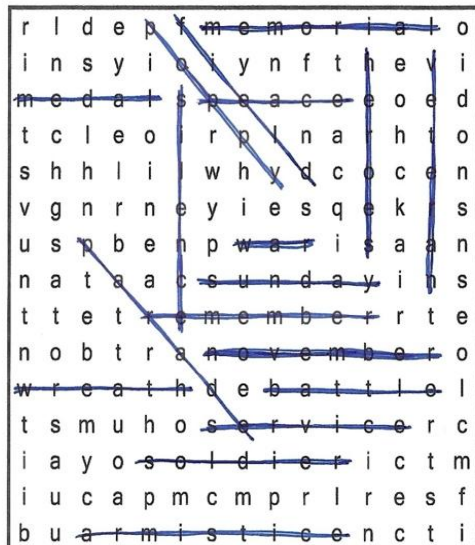
01895 707 106 tim.woolford@berkleycaregroup.co.uk



Ryefield Court Care Home
Ryefield Avenue
Uxbridge UB10 9DE

Answers

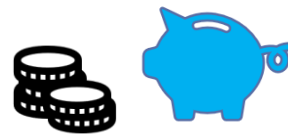
Remembrance Day Word Search



This space could be working for **your** business. Our Magazine also appears on the Parish Website –

www.allsaintsnorthhillingdon.co.uk

For advertising rates, please contact Rev. Ulric ulricgerry@icloud.com



Punny Plaice



I did a theatrical performance about puns.

It was a play on words.

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

Articles for the December magazine need to reach us by **30th November** at 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

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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.

