



SAINTS ALIVE!



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



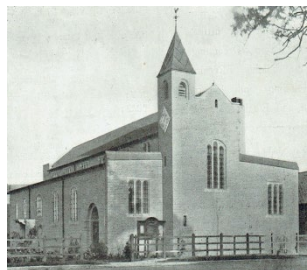
*The
Season
of
Lent*



“Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes”.

February 2024

90p *(suggested minimum donation)*



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 Times

Said Eucharist

8.00 am

**SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST WITH
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

10.00 am

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

On the 3rd Sunday of each month: Sung
Parish Eucharist *in a less formal style*

10.00 am

USUAL HOLYDAY & WEEKDAY Times

The Parish Eucharist on Holydays &
Feastdays

7.30 pm

On weekdays

Wednesday

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).

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 11:00. No appointment is needed.

Parish Website: www.allsaintsnorthhillington.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon

Twitter: @ASHillingdon

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'.

The members of this month's production team are John & Carol Clarke, and Loralene Bain (our Parish Administrative Assistant) Articles for the March 2024 issue need to reach John Clarke by ***Tuesday 27th February 2024*** cwasnh@btinternet.com ***We shall definitely need some new items for the next edition, please.***

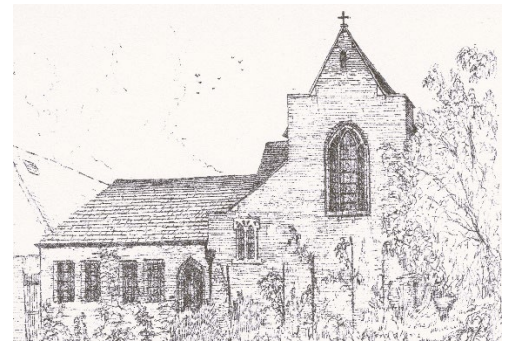
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A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE



Greeting All Saints and Sinners!

Dear All Saints,

How are you going to spend Lent? I assume that you haven't been wildly sinning over Christmas, so you shouldn't have much to repent of before Easter. But we can lack passion for our Lord, allowing our love to become luke-warm. Like any relationship, our walk with Him needs to be invested in, with planning, time, thought and effort.

The first beatitude is *"Blessed are those who are poor-in-spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven"*. This is an accurate translation, interestingly the word for "poor" is also used for beggars. The verse implies that as we come as beggars before the Lord we will receive his heavenly kingdom presence.

So why should we beg for more of God? I passionately believe that he has more for us, our families, our friends and neighbours, our community and our church. There is no situation that is not improved with the salt, yeast and light of the Lord. If we ask, we will receive. My heart is to see us grow individually and as a church, and this happens, people will be drawn to join us in worship.

So how do we do draw near to God? Let's agree as a church to set aside 10-15 minutes a day, perhaps slowly read a portion of scripture, perhaps a psalm, and let it sink in, and then spend a few minutes being still, both bringing your thoughts to the Lord in prayer and also listening to what he has to say. Also as a church we will be doing the Stations of the Cross as usual on Friday evenings, and you are warmly invited to spend some time afterwards at the vicarage, discussing scripture and praying together.

Never in human history have there been so many tools to help us. If you are not a book person, you can get the Lectionary readings or Morning Prayer from the Church of England on your smart-phone or iPad (google church publishing apps lectionary). Perhaps ask Alexa (other streaming providers are available!) to play Christian music rather than your usual station.

***"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9)***

Let us be beggars this Lent.
So we might receive the blessings of Easter.

Revd Ulric



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Prayers and thoughts for February



We pray for those who are in the world's limelight: celebrities, sports personalities, government officials, councillors, media influencers. We ask that all who have worldly power use it for the good of all, and not for their own personal agendas. Give them wisdom to recognise truth and to lead others with integrity. Help us, who do not have such power and wealth, to discern the good from that which is self seeking.

We pray for your church as it moves towards Lent and the cross. Give us humble hearts and a will to see ourselves in Your light. Help us to use the weeks of Lent to learn more of You, and to learn more of about ourselves and each other, that in sharing we may listen and in turn deepen our relationship with You.

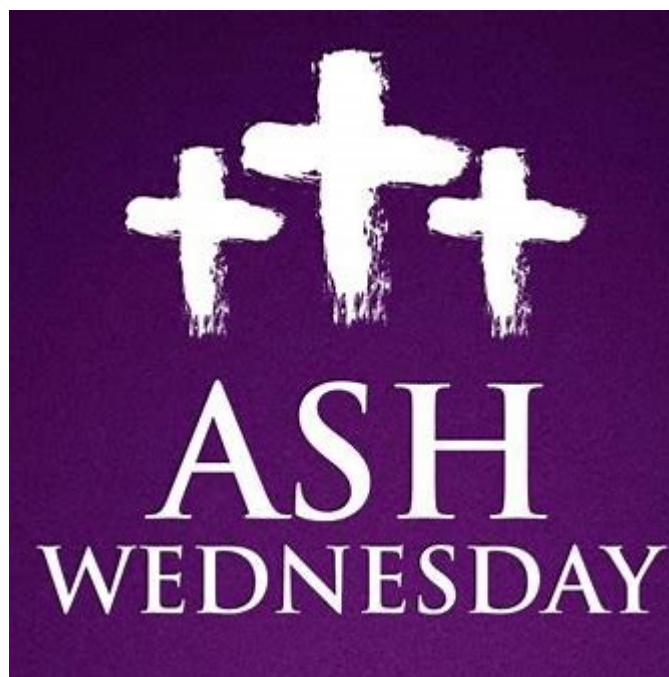
We pray for the places where we live, giving thanks for the beauty which is there to be seen. Help us to be grateful each and every day for all the blessings given to us. We give thanks for those who love us, care for us and bring us joy. May we know that in all our smiles and laughter You are there between us and within us. As many celebrate St Valentine's Day this year, may we bring to mind and hold close to us those whom we have loved and lost. And we pray for those who at this time feel unloved and unnoticed. Open our eyes to see them and bring light into their lives.

We offer ourselves to You, Lord God, this month and this day. Even if we forget You, may You never forget us. We ask these prayers in Jesus' name, Amen

Churchwarden

Church of England Festivals 2024

Date	Day	Festival
6-Jan	Saturday	Epiphany
2-Feb	Friday	Candlemas
14-Feb	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
10-Mar	Sunday	Mothering Sunday
25-Mar	Monday	Annunciation Day
28-Mar	Thursday	Maundy (Holy) Thursday
29-Mar	Friday	Good Friday
31-Mar	Sunday	Easter
9-May	Thursday	Ascension Day
19-May	Sunday	Pentecost
26-May	Sunday	Trinity Sunday
1-Nov	Friday	All Saints' Day
25-Dec	Wednesday	Christmas Day



WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY



CLIFF'S LEGACY OF BOOKS

For those of you who do not know me well, my dear husband Cliff died from Covid with other issues in December, 2020. Cliff was an avid reader and lover of books: theology, 1960's music, football, cricket, WW1, WW1 Ships. Etc etc. Many books have gone, but we still have a wall of cricket books (India, Australian, Wisden magazines from the 1980's and possibly before), etc. We also have some Christian books from the 1980's, some Bibles, etc. We also have many LP albums of classical music.

If anyone is genuinely interested or knows of anyone who may be, please contact me. My email is: charbergdahl@googlemail.com...or you may message me or WhatsApp me on 0753-0857890. Phoning is not the best as I am very hard of hearing.

Thank you.. Charlotte Bergdahl



GARDENER'S PHILOSOPHY

WEED-PROOF MEMBRANE -FRIEND OR FOE?

By Angela Sharp

As a gardener I see a lot of gardens where weed-proof membrane has been employed to try and suppress weeds. I say 'try' because invariably weeds will win. Sooner or later, despite all your best efforts, all the gravel in the world to weigh it down, membrane the thickness of carpet, the weeds will either grow up through it, or between the inevitable gaps in the sheets, or will arrive as seeds on the surface. Then they'll put out roots along it in the medium on top or push roots down through it which find tiny gaps in the material.

The intention is good and noble. You put down the membrane, you cover it with bark or stones and you pat yourself on the back as you look at your weed-free creation. Except perhaps you didn't fully weed the ground underneath before you laid it?

Maybe you didn't think you needed to weed out the tap-rooted dandelions or alkanet (the large hairy leaved, blue flowered plants that bees unfortunately love in late spring, but which self-seeds mercilessly and grow roots the thickness of small trees beneath the ground, some reaching half a metre long). Or there's grass beneath it which will find a way to grow up given half a chance, especially the stronger couch grass. Maybe some weed seeds were in the soil already.

Surely, you say, the membrane will suppress everything underneath due to lack of light? There's no doubt it can help stop weed seeds germinating as few seeds will germinate in the dark but some tap-rooted weeds have the reserves to push leaves and stems up, travelling along the ground until they find a gap to grow through. I recently had this issue in a garden where I was trying to remove alkanet, but so many of the plants' roots had grown thick and/or woody over time it was going to be an enormous struggle to truly get rid of them. Clearly they'd been allowed to proliferate in the garden for a long time and the weed-proof membrane meant I didn't have a hope of even attempting to dig the roots out which had grown down through it because of course you can't put a fork of any kind into the ground without tearing more holes in the membrane.

Membranes come in various thicknesses but even if the membrane is thick the detritus from fallen leaves in the autumn and other soil blowing about on the wind or in rain (e.g sahara desert rain) means soil particles fall or are created on the surface. If you have a bark covering, it slowly degrades into humus and weeds can use this like any medium to grow in. Some weeds even favour gravel as a medium, especially if there is a little bit of degraded leaf or sandy soil in there. I have even seen weeds growing on plastic grass and it behaves in a similar way, either growing on the surface or in some cases managing to push roots down through it.

I'm not saying that putting nothing down is the best or only option but it would save you some money and time in the long term. You can mulch directly on to soil with bark or gravel or just soil improver and it does a similar job of suppressing weeds for a time. Indeed soil improver or manure is only of benefit to soil in the long term, improving its structure and sometimes fertility depending on what you're using, keeping moisture in AND it keeps weeds down. The downside is you need to apply it every year unless you're using pebbles and gravel. If reasonably thickly laid it's also marginally easier to weed through a mulch direct on soil as you

just need to push the mulch aside to reach the offending 'plant in the wrong place'. I know for certain that I can't weed out that alkanet under the weed-proof

membrane mentioned earlier so the only choices are to remove the membrane to dig them out or use weedkiller.

Another client has the thickest membrane I've ever seen on the flower beds with gravel on top but I can't lift it. It's quite extraordinary stuff but once again it hasn't stopped the weeds long term. Here ash tree saplings are proliferating and other weeds that have found gaps in curling and visible membrane edges (another issue with it; it often becomes visible as mulch degrades or moves).

And of course most membranes are plastic based even if they are porous. That alone should surely now be a reason to avoid it, to avoid potentially adding microplastics to the environment as the product degrades or is discarded. To be honest if you're stuck for ideas, covering the garden simply with grass may be easiest. Easy to mow, any weeds get mown down (or can be dug out before they take over) and at least it's still a porous surface. If you're away a lot or just can't mow regularly, covering the ground with larger shrubs will shade most weeds out. But keep an eye out for the alkanet because once it's in your garden it's one of the hardest weeds to fully get rid of that I've come across and will quickly take over if you don't watch it. Although perhaps bindweed and ground elder are in a similar category.

FALLING LEAVES

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;

Lengthen night and shorten day;

Every leaf speaks bliss to me

Fluttering from the autumn tree.

From a poem by Emily Bronte (1818-48)



**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
NORTH HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX UB10 9BT
PARISH DIRECTORY**

(Unless otherwise indicated, the area code is 01895.)

***New members are always welcome at our
organisations.***

Parish Priest	Revd' Ulric Gerry	01895 262420
Churchwarden <i>Emeritus</i>	Mr Ken Marriott 95 Windsor Avenue UB10 9AX	01895 238368
Churchwarden & Altar Servers	Mr John Clarke 91 Victoria Avenue UB10 9AJ	01895 812374
Honorary Deputy Churchwardens	Mrs Lynn Taylor 213 Windsor Avenue UB10 9BD Mrs Lesley Thompson 1 Sedgwick Avenue UB10 9DF	01895 258393 01895 233509
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Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Jane Turnbull	01895 257539
Sacristans	Mrs Ann Tutton	01895 239785
Music Co-ordinator	Mrs Jane Turnbull	01895 257539

BIBLE OCCUPATIONS WORD SEARCH

N	A	I	C	I	S	U	M	F	I	R	R	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	R	A	X
B	L	A	C	K	S	M	I	T	H	O	J	C	P	A	P	I	Q	T	W	D	P	G
W	U	R	G	Q	L	Q	F	L	L	W	N	A	M	R	E	H	S	I	F	W	O	N
P	K	D	E	O	S	C	V	I	Z	X	I	J	Q	Z	T	V	T	W	Z	A	S	B
X	C	R	M	V	A	B	A	S	D	C	R	N	V	F	O	Z	S	L	R	S	T	T
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T	K	K	I	W	T	S	M	E	R	L	Y	S	G	U	B	I	U	N	E	U	B	P

APOSTLE	FARMER	METALWORKER	SHEPHERD
ARCHITECT	FISHERMAN	MIDWIFE	SHOEMAKER
BAKER	GARDENER	MINSTREL	SLAVE
BEGGAR	GOATHERD	MUSICIAN	SOLDIER
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CARPENTER	JUDGE	PROPHET	TENTMAKER
COOK	KING	SAILOR	WASHWOMAN
CUPBEARER	LEATHERWORKER	SCRIBE	WEAVER
DYEWORKER	MERCHANT	SHEEPSHEARER	WINEMAKER

BIBLE CROSSWORD VI

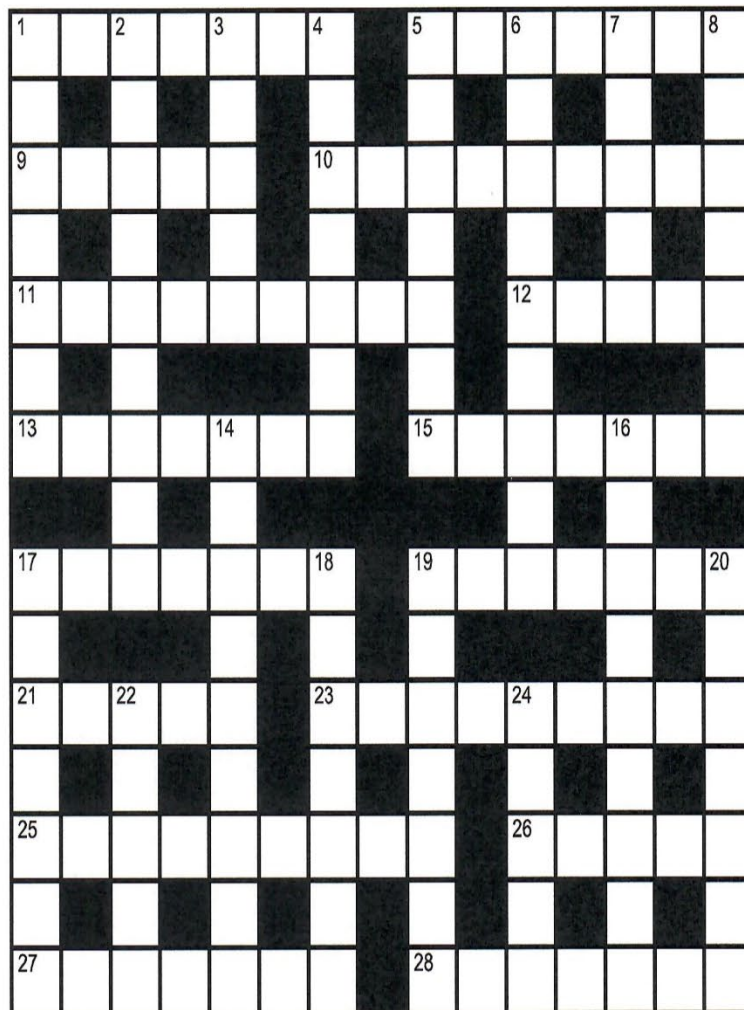
Across

- 1 Purifies (7)
 5 Tainted (7)
 9 Forbidden objects of worship (5)
 10 Abundant (9)
 11 Wife of David (9)
 12 Lift up (5)
 13 Grapple (7)
 15 Lack of rain (7)
 17 Sennacherib's realm (7)
 19 Domain (7)
 21 Biblical clothing (5)
 23 Supplant (9)
 25 Announced (9)
 26 Tamar's brother (5)

- 27 Person seeking redress for wrong (7)
 28 Decorates (7)

Down

- 1 Colourful arc seen after the flood (7)
 2 Forehead ornaments (9)



by Philologus

3 Bird homes (5)

4 Greatest in status (7)

5 Servant (7)

6 Time of day (9)

7 Ruth's mother in law (5)

8 Lineage (7)

14 Separating wheat from chaff (9)

16 Legion's people (9)

17 King who was almost persuaded to be a Christian (7)

18 One more (7)

19 Pummelled bread (7)

20 Grass clippings (7)

22 Holy book (5)

24 Barter (5)

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORD SEARCH

SOLUTION



BIBLE CROSSWORD V - SOLUTION



Across: 1 Hushed, 4 Assigned, 9 Lands, 10 Chaldeans, 11 Nets, 12 Roof, 13 Leave, 15 Saffron, 16 Idea, 19 Deaf, 20 Escaped, 23 Lured, 24 Hail, 25 Fool, 27 Shepherds, 28 Shine, 29 Trespass, 30 Hungry.

Down: 1 Holiness, 2 Sanctify, 3 East, 5 Sea of Tiberias, 6 Indulgence, 7 Naaman, 8 Dishes, 10 Crown of thorns, 14 Friendship, 17 Opposing, 18 Adultery, 21 Closet, 22 Greece, 26 Esau.



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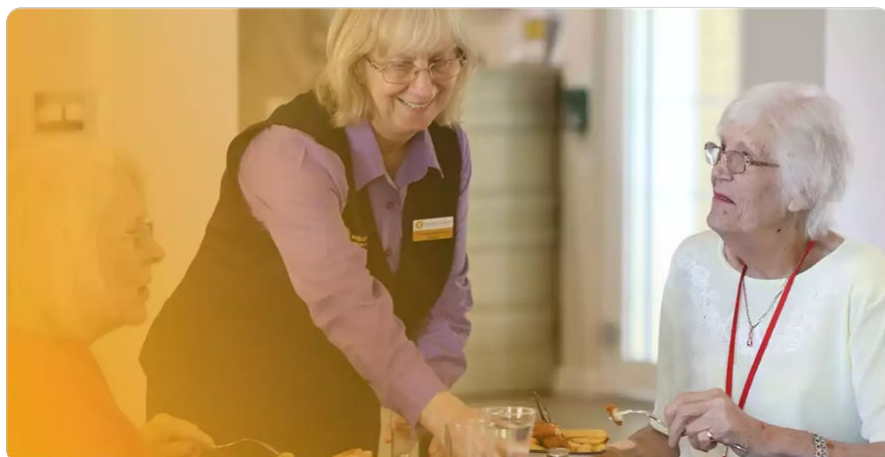
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Dear Lord,

So far today, I'm - doing all right.



I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.

**I found a £20 note
lying on the ground
in the Car Park
at Sainsbury's yesterday.**

**And I asked myself;
“what would Jesus do” ?**

So, I turned it into Wine.



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