



SAINTS ALIVE!

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



May 2026

£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 **10.00 am**
(followed by tea and cake in the Hall)

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

I was recently talking with Counsellor Colleen about potholes. She said that people complain about them, but don't bother to report them, so they can't fix them. Our local police say the same about crime. It was a reminder that we need to be involved as citizens if we want civilisation, which is why we have our MP's address on our weekly church bulletin sheet. The big question is, how should we as Christians relate to our secular state?



Jesus Christ was born into a land occupied by the Roman Empire but did not lead a political revolution. Instead, he proclaimed the Kingdom of God: calling individuals to surrender their hearts and lives to the Lord. When asked about tax, he said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. This distinction has shaped Western civilisation: political involvement has a place within our allegiance to God.

As Christianity spread through the Roman world, Christians prayed for emperors but refused to worship them, for which they were persecuted. This changed when Constantine became emperor and made Christianity the official religion of empire. The Church became embedded with the state and gained wealth and status, but was corrupted.

When Rome was overthrown by barbarians, Augustine of Hippo wrote "The City of God", arguing that no earthly kingdom, including Christian Rome, should be confused with God's kingdom; they are separate. Politics might be influenced by Christ, but political rule is always flawed.

In the Middle Ages, the Church was the only functioning institution across Europe. The Church shaped law, education, charity, architecture, festivals, kingship, and moral life. Europe became culturally and politically (imperfectly) Christian. There was a constant struggle between Kings and the church; "a complicated partnership and rivalry between throne and altar".

Corruption of the church resulted in calls for reform by Martin Luther and others. European princes supported them for political reasons, Europe fought and fragmented. In England, Henry VIII, not wanting to be controlled by Europe (think an early Brexit) created the Church of England. Everywhere there were terrible religious wars: French Wars of Religion, the Thirty Years' War, Oliver Cromwell's civil war etc. Eventually, sick of the bloodshed, the modern European secular state was born, with religious toleration.

In England we kept an established state church: Bishops sit in the House of Lords. Charles' Coronation was Christian. Parish churches oversaw marriages, schools and poor relief. We were a tolerant Christian country.

In the last century however, secularisation has accelerated and Britain is increasingly religiously diverse and multicultural. We can no longer call ourselves a Christian nation. So should Christians be involved politically? The answer is we are called to be salt, light, yeast, and if our community or nation is bland, dark, or flat, it is because there is not enough salt, light or yeast. So get involved. Report the pothole and the crime, come to OFRA meetings, join a political party, volunteer at Home Start or a food bank, do something for your neighbour, write to your MP. But also remember, the Kingdom of God is of each individual human heart.

Have a blessed spring,

Fr Ulric

With many thanks to Carol and her team for making the church look so beautiful over Easter.



EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

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

May

5th May at 11am - Service at Ryefield Court Care Home

24th May – Pentecost

31st may – Trinity Sunday

EVENTS IN HILLINGDON

Monday 4th May, 12pm until late – Celebrity Charity Football match at Northwood Football Club to raise funds for Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (*our Editor will be volunteering there for the afternoon!*)

Friday 8th May, 2-3pm – Coffee and Crime event with author Andrea Mara at Manor Farm Library.

Saturday 9th May, 12-4m – Community Resilience Roadshow at Hillingdon Fire Station.

Saturday 9th May from 8pm – Race Night in aid of the Mayor's charities at the Royal Naval Association.

15th May, 7-10pm – Quiz Night in aid of Radio Hillingdon at Uxbridge Sports Club

13th- 16th May – 'Living Together' by Alan Ayckbourn at the Compass Theatre.

20th – 22nd May – 'We Will Rock You' at the Winston Churchill Theatre.

20th – 23rd May – 'Murder on the Nile' at the Compass Theatre.



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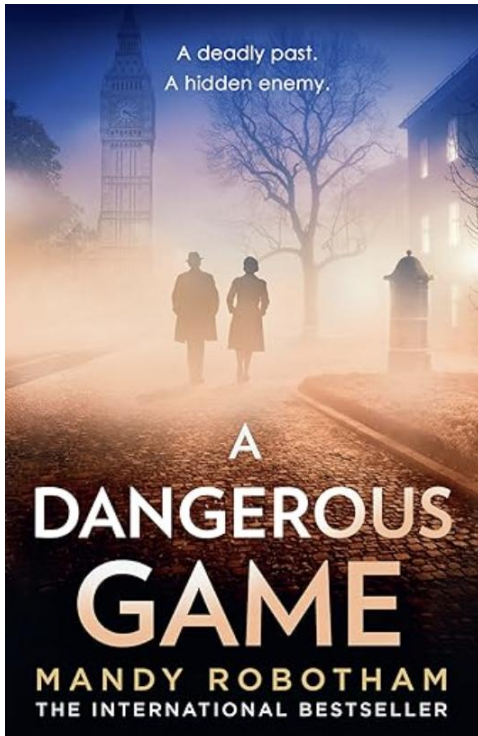
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Book review



A Dangerous Game by Mandy Robotham

Mrs Spy by Mandy Robotham was one of my favourite novels of 2025 so I was delighted to explore some of the other books and I wasn't disappointed.

A Dangerous Game is a historical thriller set in London in December 1952. It's seven years since World War 2 ended but widowed WPC Helen Dexter (Dexie) is still fighting her own battles against sexism in the Metropolitan Police and requests to make endless cups of tea.

But visiting German police officer Harri Schroder treats her as an equal and values her A-Z like knowledge of London's streets and sixth sense for crime, particularly when he witnesses her foil a jewellery heist.

So, when Harri is given a secret mission to unmask a Nazi war criminal, he picks Dexie to team up with. The criminal is masquerading as a successful British businessman about to sign a multimillion-pound contract with the British Government. Time is not on Harri and Dexie's side and neither is the weather. A pea souper descends on London, and the thick fog hinders the duo as they try to track down and expose the fugitive.

The thick fog is almost like a third major character in the book. It adds real plot tension and atmosphere to the novel. It is also based on a real weather event, which my mum remembers. The pea souper in the book was a lethal smog of pollution that covered the city of London for five days in December 1952 and contributed to thousands of deaths.

This novel has good pace, likeable yet haunted characters and a plot that keeps you turning the page. The plot is also (shockingly) anchored in real life. I found it confronting to read at the end of the book that it was common after the war for allied countries to hire Nazi war criminals to aid their efforts in the Cold War.

A Dangerous Game is an enjoyable read and has made me a confirmed fan of Mandy Robotham's historical fiction. Read this alongside *Mrs Spy*, and I think you'll be joining me and become a fan too.

Fiona Robinson-Morey

'Children Bring Joy'

All Saints' does not have a Sunday School, but children who come to church



services gather around the little table in the carpet area near the North Door and colour the 'Theme of the Day' pictures.

During Advent 10am services, Santana and her little friend, and James (he likes to tour the church – a future Sacristan or Boat Boy) all lit a candle on the Advent Ring. On Gaudete/ Pink Sunday, there were no children, so the tallest 6' 'little' girl there, Hazel, lit the pink candle.

On Mothering Sunday, the visiting vicar and John Clarke both had help to share out the two buckets of beautiful daffodil posies along the aisles to the congregation.

Santana helped the vicar and Noah and Teddy helped John – all with lovely smiles.

The vicar stood by the main door to make his farewells and the three children went to the South aisle with John to hand out posies to the pianist and choir. Karol Schlacter was ready for the photocall!

With thoughts of Sunday School from over the years...

Matthew, who chose to sit next to me in the back rows, now a proud dad and married to Rosie, lives in Worcester.

Dominic, the 'leap year lad', now proudly wears an RAF uniform, and married in lockdown to Jenny.

Where is the little lad at Harvest Festival who proudly carried up the aisle a tin of sardines to be blessed – with a posy of flowers attached? 'All is safely gathered in'. Nowadays our Harvest gifts go in a cardboard box at the back of the church for a local food bank.

One of the last Sunday school teachers, John Williams, now on weekly intercessions list, and Mary Ratchford, bless her, in poor health now.

Rosemary Bouden

The story behind EAR4U



I was born a healthy child with no medical problems and normal hearing. I had all the usual childhood illnesses and none of them affected my hearing.

Eventually I married and had three children. It was on a cold miserable day, just before Christmas, and we had taken the children out Christmas shopping. They were very excited and looked forward to the day.

My mother would phone at 10am every morning to see how we were, and on that morning, I heard the phone ring and put it to my right ear and couldn't hear a thing, so asked my mum to ring back thinking it was the phone with the problem. This time I put it to my left ear and could hear perfectly. I began to panic, mum said that I may have a chill in the ear and to take some Beechams before bed. I did this and nothing changed. I eventually went to my GP, but all the antibiotics and sprays and everything did not work. I was sent to hospital and had all the tests and was told 'you're deaf' - nothing can be done, no help, advice - just get on with it.

I had my three children by then, a child in arms, a three-year-old and a seven-year-old. It was so hard and I remained like that for nearly twenty years.

It was not until 2002 when I moved to Ruislip and needed to see a new doctor that things really changed for me. The doctor's brother just happened to be deaf! He wore a device that I now wear, called a BAHA (bone anchored hearing aid). I was told that there was a person that had worked with my surgeon at Bishopswood Hospital and I went straight to the hospital to see him. Two weeks later the surgeon called me to the hospital and after many tests said I was a good candidate for this operation to first fix a tiny abutment into my skull, and after it was healed, I could have my little box attached that would enable me to hear perfectly again. It was not until a year later at my check-up that I met someone who ran a support group, and she answered all the bottled up questions I had! I have long bright red hair and have always dyed my hair. The question was, can I still dye my hair with the BAHA? I spent 24+ hours phoning the hospital to get told, 'yes you can!'

It was that day that made me realise that there must be thousands of people out there that are not told anything, or given any support or advice. That was when EAR4U was about to become a reality! I gave £200 of my own money to set up the

charity with help to get registered. I also took on a year's course to learn how to run a charity and give talks etc.

I have gone on to give talks in the Science Museum, Museum of London, after dinner talks, schools, hospitals, wherever I can. I also have a stall at as many local events as possible. I hope to start doing my popular vintage tea parties again this year.

I intend to carry on helping as many people, wherever they are, for as long as I can.

Please contact me on 01895 672706 or 07890315156 or www.ear4u.co.uk

For registering as deaf, phone your local sensory loss team and ask to be registered as deaf.

Ann Sargent

St George's Day themed Coffee Morning



On 22nd April, to celebrate St George's Day, Lesley and her team treated the coffee morning crowd to rolls with bacon, sausage or veggie option. Of course, their delicious home-made cakes were available too, and an interesting St George's quiz.

The morning was well-attended, the kitchen crew were kept busy with orders, and everything was demolished with relish - or at least brown or tomato sauce!

Lesley is going to hold a fund-raising for Ann, the lady who spoke to us about hearing-loss and treatments.

It's a friendly way to spend a Wednesday morning.

See advert on page 15 for more details.

Written by a Coffee Morning Regular

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**NOT JUST
TRAVEL**

New Coffee Shop at Court Park!

Published again this month due to a printing error in the April mag!

We recently opened our small coffee spot in the park and have been so warmly welcomed by the local community. Very quickly the coffee spot has also become a meeting place - somewhere people stop to chat, catch up on local news and start their walks through the park.



Being part of the park and the neighbourhood already feels very special to us. It's lovely to see families, dog walkers and regular visitors becoming familiar faces, and we are really grateful for the support and kind words we've received so far.

We serve a wide range of coffees and our beans come from different parts of the world, including Colombia, Ethiopia and Brazil, and we are currently testing different selections so visitors can discover new flavours. Over time we hope to add a new coffee to the menu each month, and some of our hot drinks will gradually be joined by iced coffee and orange-based summer drinks for the warmer months. Alongside our coffee, we offer a wide selection of freshly baked pastries and cakes, including traditional pastel de nata, croissants, pain au chocolat, muffins, brownies, cookies, doughnuts, and even a bacon breakfast cookie, which has become a popular choice! Many of these items have quickly become best-sellers, especially as everything is baked fresh in the morning.

We are currently open every day from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Sunday. We are also in discussions with the council about extending our opening hours so that in the future we may be able to open earlier at 8:00am and stay open until 7:00pm during the summer months, when more people are enjoying the park. Looking ahead, we hope to add a small seating area, but we are waiting for paving permission from the council.

Dogs are always welcome - we offer free treats and water for our four-legged visitors.

Thank you to everyone who has already visited us, and we look forward to welcoming many more of you soon.

Parkway Café Management Team

Lesley's recipe of the month

Easy pesto tomato tart



Ingredients:

- 1 sheet of ready-made and rolled puff pastry
- 2 tablespoons of pesto
- 10 large cherry tomatoes
- 1 red pepper
- parmesan
- Olive oil

Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 200c.
2. Place your pastry on a sheet of parchment paper - this can be made as a circle or a rectangle and place this on a baking sheet.
3. Spread the pesto over the pastry leaving a small gap all around the edge, use more pesto if needed.
4. Halve the tomatoes and chop the pepper into strips and scatter over the pastry.
5. Sprinkle a little olive oil over the tomatoes, along with salt and black pepper then finally the parmesan.
6. Brush some beaten egg onto the gap that was left then roll this over to form an edge and also brush this with the egg.
7. Bake for approx 30 mins.

This is a very simple dish to make for a light lunch and absolutely delicious.

You can add and change ingredients as you wish - maybe sliced courgettes, tuna or olives all would be good additions.

The great plus point is that it only takes minutes to assemble, so enjoy.

Lesley Thompson

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 27th June
12pm to 3pm

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£1 ENTRY



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New museum in Uxbridge

More than 2500 rare artefacts are on display at a new museum in Uxbridge.

Hillingdon Council's Museum and Archive Service, based at the Civic Centre, offers visitors a look at interesting objects and documents from the borough's past – many of which are on display for the first time.

Highlights include original Randalls store signage, and the Basset's grant, a document from the 1100s. The 'Hillingdon Hoard' is a collection of more than 300 Iron Age coins called 'pontins' dating from the 1st century BCE.

Visitors can also immerse themselves in an interactive display, recreating a Victoria-era home, complete with an original fireplace from the artefacts collection.

The archives service also ensures that residents wanting to view historic documents or seek help with tracing their ancestry, can access materials from a dedicated search room.

The museum is located alongside the new library in the former Middlesex Suite building. Find out more at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/history-heritage.

Anne Robinson



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Cinco de Mayo

A	N	N	U	A	L	A	O	T	I	S	R	L	L
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FESTIVAL
TACOS
CELEBRATION
ANNUAL
MAY
GUACAMOLE
FIESTA
PUEBLA
BURRITOS
BATTLE
FRANCE
HOLIDAY
SOMBRERO
MEXICO

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/1084744/>

Trivia Questions

1. What is May's traditional birthstone?
2. What is the official flower associated with the month of May?
3. What famous, pun-inspired holiday is celebrated on May 4th?
4. Which major international music competition is traditionally held in May?
5. Which two zodiac signs fall in the month of May?
6. Which British monarch was born on May 24, 1819?



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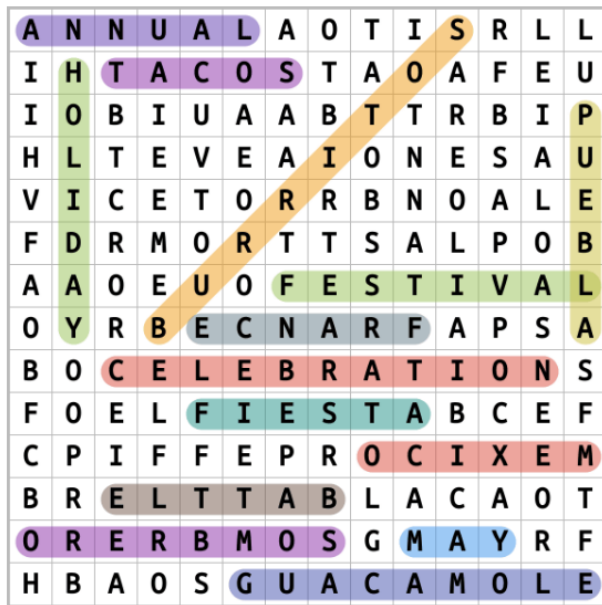
To learn more about life at Ryefield Court or arrange a visit contact our Customer Relations Manager

01895 707 106 Madge.wang @berkleycaregroup.co.uk



Ryefield Court Care Home
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Answers



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

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

Trivia answers

1. Emerald
2. Lily-of-the-valley and Hawthorne
3. Star Wars Day
4. Eurovision
5. Taurus and Gemini
6. Queen Victoria

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

Articles for the June magazine need to reach us *by Sunday 24th May* 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?

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
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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.

