



SAINTS ALIVE!

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



Milford on Sea, Hampshire

September 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 Church family,

Humans everywhere flourish best in families. Yet young people today are struggling to find partners, buy houses, get married and have babies. There are lots of reasons for this. A big part of this is a lack of confidence in the future, economically, culturally and physically. There has been a lot of fear recently; around Climate, Covid, the Ukraine war, the terrible October 7th Attack in Israel, Gaza, the US-Iran conflict, and the Ebola outbreak in Congo.



Here in the UK the cost of everything is going up, it's hard to get a job, there is increasing social unrest, endless political protests, and daily reports of shoplifting, fare-dodging and assaults. 'The Man of Lawlessness' is certainly at work (2 Thess 2v6). But as always, we find hope in God's words, in the Bible. To the exiles in Babylon, Jeremiah says (Jeremiah 29):

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

These verses gave God's people, in tough times, living in exile, hope that God was in charge and things would work out. They followed Jeremiah's word, and prospered in Babylon. If this was true then, how much more for us today, who know Christ. We put our faith in our unchanging, eternal God who loves us. Jesus is Lord. He has a plan. Our hope is justified for we know in whom it is based. He will restore his church and our nation in his time. Unlike others, we can live confident of a good and blessed future.

So how do we live? Mother Teresa said, 'If you want to change the world, go home and love your family'. And of course, also our friends, neighbours and church family. In these fractured, disrupted times, churches everywhere will increasingly be the place where people can find community, friendship, love, hope, forgiveness, meaning, and support for their life journey. And this is my heart and vision for All Saints over the coming years.

Blessings all,

Fr Ulric

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

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

September

1st September at 11am - Service at Ryefield Court Care Home

6th September at 11am – Coffee Morning for Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

27th September – Harvest Festival

19th September - Bollywood Night (See page 9)

29th September at 11am - Service at Ryefield Court Care Home

EVENTS IN HILLINGDON

11th September at 3pm – Coffee and Crime event with author Andrew Hunter-Murray at Manor Farm Library.

11th-19th September – Visit Southlands Arts Centre and enjoy workshops and tours as part of Open House Festival 2026.

12th-13th September - Explore the Generator House at The Battle of Britain Bunker.

12th September at 11am - Join local history and architecture experts for a guided tour of Hillingdon Civic Centre.

12th- 13th September - Visit the Great Barn for a special open day and discover the history of this impressive historic building.

12th – 13th September - Come along and visit Manor Farm House in Ruislip, a Grade II listed Tudor building dating from 1505 to 1507.

13th September at 10am - Visit the dovecote at Eastcote House Gardens and learn about its history as an 18th-century, Grade II listed building.

23rd September at 7.30pm - Janice Hallett will be discussing her latest crime thriller at Ruislip Manor Library.



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Breast Cancer Afternoon Tea



On a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon in July, we once again hosted an afternoon tea for Breast Cancer Now in the Vicarage garden.

The event was strictly ticket only this year for a hundred guests and the event soon became a sell-out.

We were very fortunate to have the Stardust Big Band as our entertainment. They are an 18

piece band who often perform in our church and are amazing, so many thanks to the Hamlin family for sorting this for us. The band very kindly gave up their time at no charge as it was for charity which was much appreciated.

We served our guests a large selection of sandwiches and savoury items such as sausage rolls, cheese scones and then a selection of cakes including scones, cupcakes etc. There was free flowing tea and coffee, jugs of iced water, plus Pimm's and lemonade or elderflower cordial that could be purchased.

We also had a tombola stall and a raffle and we are extremely grateful to local businesses who gave us some amazing prizes. Many thanks to those of you that may have attended the event or made a donation in any way.

I have to thank the group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to help this event be such a success - be it putting up gazebos, putting out tables and chairs, making food or serving food or drink. I couldn't have done it without you all so we shall be holding a thank you BBQ in the Vicarage garden for you all to express our gratitude.

The feedback we have had was that everyone thought it was a lovely afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed both the food and the entertainment and especially those that got up to dance who seemed to be having a really great time.

A lot of hard work but making the sum of £2,800 for Breast Cancer Now made it all worthwhile.

Lesley Thompson

Chiltern Open Air Museum



Have you been to the Chiltern Open Air Museum (COAM) near Chalfont St Giles?

The COAM is set in 45 acres, where there over 30 reconstructed historic buildings and a working farm. The charming cottages and rustic barns tell a unique story of rural life in the Chilterns.

At the end of May, about 10 members of the Hillingdon U3A Photography Group and I went to the Chiltern Open Air Museum for an outdoor photo shoot with the aim of taking photos for our monthly competition.

It was a sunny and rather warm day. We arrived about 10:30, enjoyed a coffee or cold soft drink in their cafe, then split up and took photographs of the many buildings.

There was a fully restored and furnished Pre-Fab. 156,623 were built between 1945 and 1949 on bomb-sites. They had a living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, inside toilet, and hot/cold water. These were new facilities for many working class families.

Pre-Fabs were expected to last 10 years though there are still about 8,000 in use today.

Nissan huts are military buildings easily constructed from curved sheets of corrugated iron and were designed in 1916 by Major Peter Norman Nissen, a Canadian-born British Army engineer and inventor.

These huts were used for accommodation, hospitals, stores, training and many other requirements of military life.

There was a kitchen garden with a variety of vegetables that would have been grown during the World War 2 "Dig for Victory" campaign, where parkland would have been cultivated to provide food. Four very well-dressed scarecrows were there to scare off greedy birds.

The working farm had goats and sheep, the dairy showed the equipment used, and a working blacksmith heated iron to red-hot then hammered it into a useful object.

About 1p.m. we re-grouped and enjoyed a lunch from the cafe sitting in the large open picnic area in the shade of a large tree, my lunch was ham-and-cheese panini and cold apple juice.

The COAM is open from Friday to Monday and during the Buckinghamshire school holidays and their address is - Chiltern Open air Museum, Newland Park, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4AB. Their website - <https://www.coam.org.uk/visit>, also has details of special event days.

It's a very interesting place to visit, one could spend the whole day there and children will love it.

Brian Hillier



Bollywood Night



On Saturday September 19th we shall be holding a Bollywood Charity event to support the charity Ear4U.

Regular readers of this magazine, or those who attend the Wednesday coffee mornings, will know Ann Sargent and the charity that she set up for the deaf. She is self-funded so we thought we would try and help her raise some much-needed funds.

The event will be in the hall from 7.30-10.30pm and there will be a Bollywood dance demonstration, with a chance to get up and join in, or you can just sit and watch.

We shall be serving authentic Indian curries and snacks, made by one of our Wednesday coffee morning attendees. There will be a vegetarian option, and if curry is not your thing we can offer an alternative.

There will be plenty of time to dance to other music too as we shall have a DJ - or you can just sit and chat with friends.

Entry by ticket only - £20 per person - just bring your own drink but all food and entertainment is included. Contact me for tickets or more information (07742 326667). Hopefully see you there.

Lesley Thompson

Unexpected visitor at the fete!



On Saturday 27th July, at All Saints Summer Fete, Brian and Anna were on the Entrance gate when they had visitors with their pet parakeet.

This parakeet decided to make a thorough investigation of their table and check entrance takings.

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**NOT JUST
TRAVEL**

Balham High Road, 14th October 1940, Historical Diorama



As a volunteer at the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge, I have been engaged over the last 5 years in creating a Diorama model depicting the bombing of Balham High Road in October 1940, which was originally intended to be a feature of the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain in September 2020. The intention of the model was to try to depict the impact of the Battle of Britain on the residents of London on the Home Front.

Unfortunately, the celebration of the 80th Anniversary never happened due to a certain pandemic, however, the removal of the tight deadline meant that I could spend more time on making the model as accurate as I could.

The model will form a key part of the commemoration of the 85th anniversary of the ending of the Blitz in the Battle of Britain Bunker Visitor Centre at RAF Uxbridge on 5th/6th September 2026.

The Diorama illustrates the aftermath of a 1400kg semi-armour piercing fragmentation bomb that fell on Balham High Road on the 14 October 1940, which landed above the northern end of the Underground Station platform tunnels, creating a large crater into which a bus then crashed, severing the water main (seen in the picture above). The northbound platform tunnel partially collapsed and was filled with earth and water from the fractured water main and sewers above, which also flowed through the cross-passages into the southbound platform tunnel. 67 civilians and London Transport staff were killed.

Balham was never approved for use as an air raid shelter as it was only 30' below the surface; only tube stations deeper than 60' (same depth as the Bunker) were officially approved for such use. Despite the recent tragedy, people are shown still

seeking refuge at night in the Underground station figuring that this was safer than being above ground during night-time air raids.

The layout depicts the situation a few days later when the tram service has been partially restored with a temporary track across the bomb crater and Tube service has also been restored* with the track having been uncovered albeit with the platform still partially blocked by the earth from the crater above.

**In reality, it took about 3 months to re-open the tube line!*



The Diorama is orientated with the Northern end of Balham High Road to the left of the viewing side, with the Northbound platform of the Underground Station depicted on the lower level, the bomb crater and the roadway on the middle level, and with the Southern Railway line to Brighton crossing the bridge over the Southern end of the High Road, above the entrance to Balham tube station.



The Underground platform shows civilian shelterers, lying on the platform trying to get to sleep. This practice was allowed from 4:30pm every day, despite the fact that trains were still running, although they had to keep behind the second of 2 white lines painted on the platform until after 8 pm.

Once the tube service had finished, special trains were run with the help of NAAFI personnel to convey food and drink to those sheltering along the line.

The bomb crater in the roadway extends all the way across the road, highlighting the fact that the bomb had effectively severed access along the High Road, even for

pedestrians, and the buildings behind have been severely damaged with their facades all but completely destroyed.

An interesting challenge that the photographic records presented was that the United Dairies shop building is shown in some photos as having 2 floors above the shop with their facades intact whereas others show only one floor. This was due to the upper floor façade having collapsed sometime after the initial bomb blast and after the earlier photos had been taken. This caused some difficulty in working out how tall the building was!



The temporary tram track across the bomb crater created an interesting modelling challenge as the tram tracks in Central London were all electrified using an underground conduit through which an electrical pick-up (known as a Plough, for obvious reasons) was used by the tram to connect to the positive conductor rails underneath the roadway. Trams in outer areas of London (such as along the Uxbridge Road) were electrified using more conventional overhead wires from which current was drawn using a trolley pole.

This has been a very challenging build as I have tried to ensure as much historical accuracy as possible, but it has been highly rewarding to exhibit, as it is a superb conversation starter as a representation of an actual event in the history of London.

Normal admission charges (discounted with your Hillingdon First card) will apply for entrance to the Bunker Visitor Centre for the Anniversary weekend (5th/6th September 2026) commemorating the end of the Blitz.

Mark Hamlin

Prayer for our Dedication Festival 2026



Heavenly Father, on this Dedication Festival we give you thanks for this church: for all who had the vision, faith and determination to build it, and for every generation that has worshipped within these walls. We thank you for the countless prayers that have been offered here, the lives that have been transformed by your love, and the community that continues to gather in your name.

We pray for Reverend Ulric, our churchwardens Lesley and Mark, and all who serve this parish with such generosity and faithfulness. Strengthen us to be a welcoming church, rooted in your love, open to all, and ready to serve our neighbours with compassion and hope. May this church continue to be a place where people encounter your presence for many generations to come.

Amen

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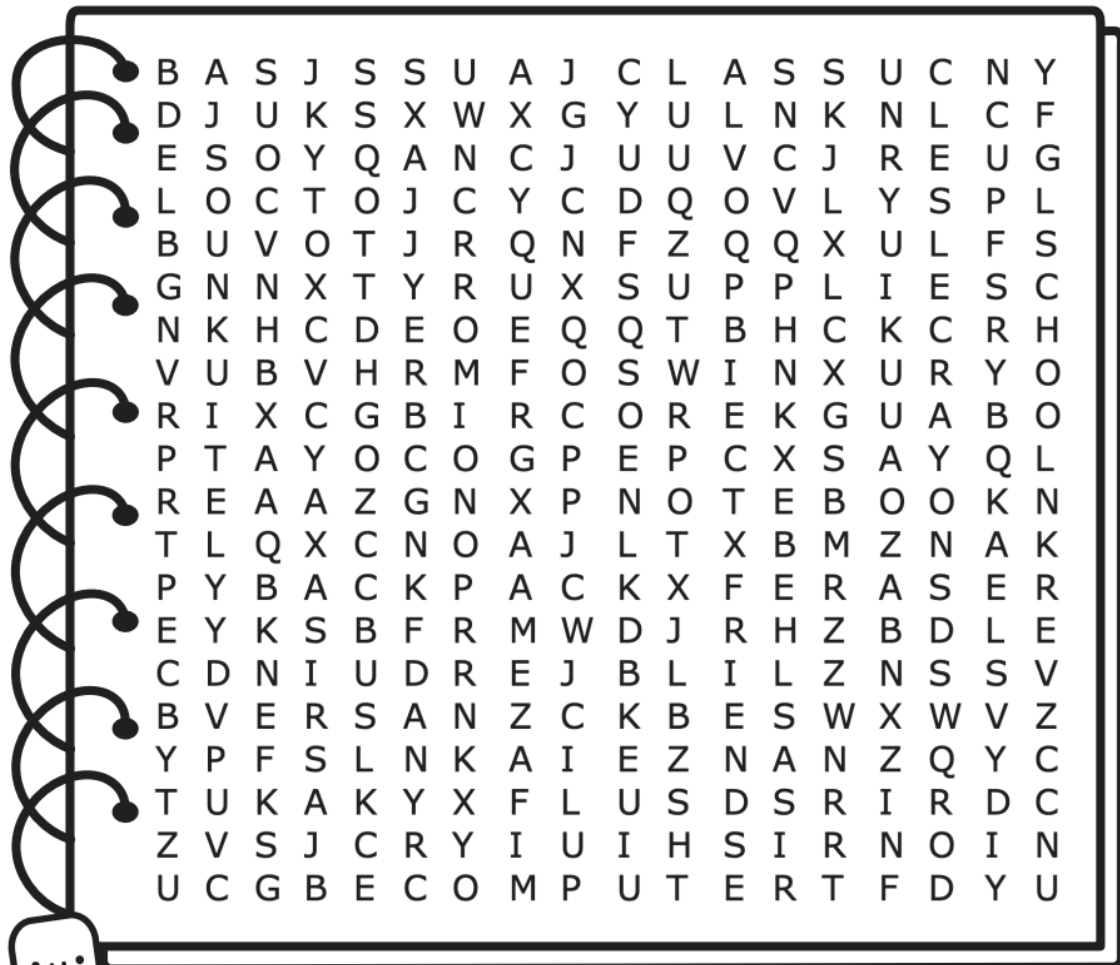


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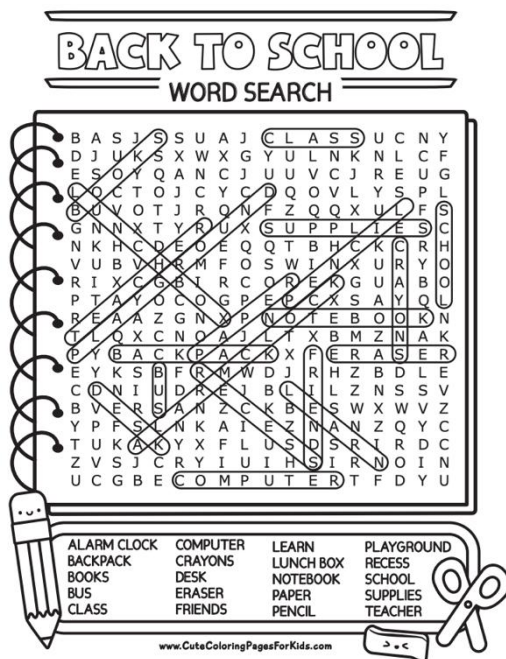
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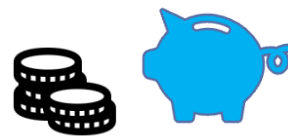
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Answers



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

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



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 27th September** 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

NORTH HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX UB10 9BT

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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.

