Virtual Quiz night

Saturday 14th November 7.30pm

www.ascensionealing.org £1
AN OPEN INVITATION

Come when you can.
We know the pace and pressures of life today. **What is on offer here is unconditional.**
There may be times when you don’t come due to circumstances in your life or maybe our style doesn’t suit you – but don’t be estranged from us. You will be welcome when we meet again. If you want to come home for Christmas or Easter, that’s all right too.
**We are here.**
We are pleased to share your happy times – we love your weddings and baptisms – we hope you tell us when you are in trouble.
**What is on offer here is always available.**
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November letter:

The Yorkshire poet Ted Hughes famously described November as “the month of the drowned dog.” I’m not sure it’s anyone’s favourite time of year. It gets dark earlier each day, the weather is often cold and wet, summer is a long way behind, and Christmas is still only on the horizon. And then there’s Covid. Restrictions are increasing, sober voices warn that we’re unlikely to have anything like a normal Christmas, and we’re getting tired of six months of living like this with no end in sight. It bites in different ways for all of us. I’m missing going to a football match, playing live music, and now I can’t drive over the Welsh border to climb a mountain.

The outlook isn’t great but we can find some brightness inside. Our Christian ancestors deliberately planted All Saints Day onto the pagan festival of Samhain where memories of the departed were darkened by rituals to ward off evil spirits. All Saints Day reminds us that those who have gone before us are alive forever in the immediate presence of God and that we wait for a future in which the world to come will break into the here and now to transform and renew it. “We’re living on the border line, between the moment and the shining miles,” as a contemporary Celtic song puts it. Hope is fundamental part of Christianity. Good always wins in the end.
LETTER FROM SIMON

We can also remind ourselves that this season is part of God’s natural order of creation. Things need to die back and become dormant in order to grow again. We expect everything instantly now, but the ancient order of creation says that waiting is part of life. We need to reflect on the changes brought by Covid to discern what needs to be retained and rebuilt, and what it is time to let go.

We do have some bright moments to look forward to this month. Our musical friend Matthew Newton has offered us one of his online quizzes which should be good fun even if you’ll have to get your own fish and chips. We can’t hold our usual Christmas Fair but we ran a very successful and enjoyable plant sale safely during lockdown and we’re looking to do something similar at the end of the month, possibly with a raffle as well. I can’t tell you yet exactly what we’ll be doing for Christmas but I promise you we will be doing something and it will be good. More details next month. Stay safe, and may you find God’s light shining for you in this dark month.

Best wishes
New Church Council Members

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which was delayed from March by the Covid-19 lockdown, took place on Sunday October 25th. The meeting was held on Zoom after the online morning service and to everyone’s delight was probably the shortest we’ve ever had.

We only appointed one Churchwarden this time with Colin McKenzie from St Mary’s continuing in the role, with Rosy Sookias elected as Deputy at the Ascension and Arby Ghazarian at St Mary’s. Kester Worme continues as Assistant Warden at St Mary’s, and was also elected as our Deanery Synod representative.

The new Parochial Church Council (PCC) members, in addition to those named above, are Denise Avanessian and Amir Zarifnia from the Ascension, and Ben Atuobi, Annlinda Buckingham, and Rae White from St Mary’s.

As well as PCC members the Ascension District Church Council will consist of Iyabo Adeola, Sue Lawes, and Lucy Pavesi, while Philip Calliste was elected to the St Mary’s Council.

We may well co-opt additional members as and when people become available.

Thank you to everyone who has been elected to and also to everyone who has served in the last year.
Online via Zoom

Virtual Quiz Night

Saturday 14th September 7.30pm

Special Guest Quiz Master Matthew Newton

Typically we would charge about £10 per ticket for a Quiz Night but this one will be donations only so please pay what you think it’s worth or what you can afford. (All proceeds fund our church and community activities)

To book please contact Rae White (darwinrae@hotmail.co.uk or 07414 990645)
Christmas Plant Sale

Saturday 28th November, 12pm-2pm
42 Audley Road, Ealing W5

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we can’t have our Christmas Fair this year, but we can have a plant sale outside in Audley Road at number 42. As it is winter most of the plants will be for indoors, to grace your house or to give away for Christmas.

Do come and support this as all the proceeds go to the Church of the Ascension and St Mary’s. It was great fun in the Spring, so let’s do it again. Bring your own refreshments - wine, beer or coffee – but remember to socially distance as you chat.

If anyone has any spare fancy flowerpots please let me know and I will come and collect them. Many thanks.

- Sue Lawes (020 8997 4664)

We are also looking at organising a Christmas Raffle which is normally part of the Fair. Look out for further information in the next few weeks.
The Ascension Friends

This time last year I was writing my article for the magazine and was telling you all that Spencer and I had been to Croatia and that I would be putting together a slide presentation of our holiday for our November meeting. Little did I know how different things would be in 2020 and that Croatia would be our last holiday for the foreseeable future. Coronavirus hadn’t even been heard of and none of us had any idea of what was in store for the entire world. Times have been strange and difficult for us all but I count myself lucky that I have not succumbed to the virus and to my knowledge neither have any of the Friends. I know that you are all looking forward to our meetings in the Welcome Area because when I speak to you that’s what you tell me and I too am looking forward to seeing you all again. It will happen but we just don’t know when. Meanwhile it’s lovely to talk to you all on the phone and to hear your news.
This month’s photos are of our 20th Anniversary celebration in May 2019. It was such a happy occasion. Stay safe and keep well.

-Liz Williams (020 8997 5578 or williams13qr@gmail.com)
St Mary’s Is Open For Worship

Although it is not yet practical to run a Sunday morning service at St Mary’s we do have a midday Holy Communion service on the third Thursday of every month. This month it’s on Thursday November 19th.

This service can be held fortnightly or weekly if there is a desire to do so – please contact Simon.

Beans And Leaves Café

With the escalation to Tier Two last month and the consequent increase of restrictions, it is no longer possible to run the Friday morning café at present.

We will be back just as soon as we can.
Local Estate Agents successfully selling property in Ealing, Acton and the surrounding areas for over 50 years

Thinking of moving? Contact Derek Grimshaw FRICS to discuss your move and to arrange a free property appraisal.

5 Station Parade, Uxbridge Road, Ealing Common, London W5 3LD

Tel 020 8992 5661 sales@grimshawhomes.co.uk

www.grimshawhomes.co.uk
CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

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<th>Calendar</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>Intercessions</th>
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<td>Our regular service times can be found on the back cover. On Sundays the intercessions (which are being used in an alphabetical sequence) are for the people who live or work in the various roads and schools of our Parish.</td>
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Weekly acts of worship and Daily Prayer can be accessed via the website. Now, more than ever, please do use the prompts here to pray for the residents of the different streets in our Parish.

**Week beginning November 1st (All Saints Sunday)**  
*Spencer Close & St Anne's Gardens*

- **Sunday**  
  - 9am – Holy Communion - Ascension  
  - 10.30am – Live All Age Worship on Zoom  
  - 3pm - All Saints Memorial Service - Ascension  
- **Monday**  
  - 8pm – Monthly Parish Prayer Gathering on Zoom  
- **Thursday**  
  - 8pm - The Bible Course on Zoom

**Week beginning November 8th (Remembrance Sunday)**  
*St Augustine's Avenue & Thackeray Court*

- **Sunday**  
  - 9am – Holy Communion - Ascension  
  - 10.30am – Live Worship on Zoom  
- **Thursday**  
  - 8pm - The Bible Course on Zoom
CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

Week beginning November 15th (2nd Sunday before Advent)

_Toucan Close & Tudor Gardens_

Sunday  
9am – Holy Communion - Ascension  
10.30am – Live Worship on Zoom

Thursday  
1200 – Holy Communion – St Mary’s  
8pm - The Bible Course on Zoom

Week beginning November 22nd (Christ The King)

_Twyford Abbey Road & Vale Lane_

Sunday  
9am – Holy Communion - Ascension  
10.30am – Live Worship on Zoom

Saturday  
1200 – Christmas Plant Sale

Week beginning November 29th (1st Sunday of Advent)

_Waldegrave Road & Waverley Gardens_

Sunday  
9am – Holy Communion - Ascension  
10.30am – Live Worship on Zoom

All live services on Zoom are recorded and posted as videos on the Parish website where they can be accessed for the next week.

PARISH REGISTERS

No entries this month
## SUDOKU CHALLENGE

How to play: place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column & each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1-9.

(N.B. No number can appear twice in any row, column or 3 x 3 box)

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Solution page 20
As you’re probably not surprised to hear, nothing has changed in the last month as far as our current restricted activities or future plans are concerned.

For those who’d like to know or be reminded of just how much we’ve achieved over the last (almost) 60 years, please visit our website at the address shown above.

Meanwhile, keep well, keep safe!

How Our Worship Reaches The World

Nearly eight months ago, we had our last service at one of our churches that involved live music. A couple of weeks after that, Simon decided to record a short Service of the Word in the back of the Ascension, and I suggested that we have a song available which was uploaded to the website alongside the service. This recording was just piano and me singing along to it with my iPhone headphones. It was simple, but nothing more.

Fast forward eight months, and we have an online service which

- is live
- is recorded for watching later
- has seven hymns or worship songs in it
ARTICLES

- has a four part choir
- has a worship band
- has Holy Communion
- has all-age content
- is all including
- available to anyone however much or little technology they have
- has people joining in from around the globe weekly

I’m sure there’s many more things that could be added to that list, but I thought those ten are a good starting point.

A lot of these things, Simon will have touched on a number of times in his magazine articles, but I thought I’d just touch on a couple of things from my musical side of this very different time.

Normally as a congregation, you see me in a suit playing the organ(s) and piano from the front of church, alongside Simon on the guitar, and Rae with her vocal microphone. We play music, you look at the screens and sing along and you’re possibly aware of somebody sitting at the laptop changing the lyrics as we sing. You also are probably aware in some way, that rehearsing happens, and practise happens to perform like this. I always thought that these things took time. How wrong I was!

I won’t bore you with technical details of music making, but to give you an oversight of how we do things now, the
hymns/songs you sing along with at our services currently are pre-recorded videos. There is no live aspect to it. I say this, because you may think that someone is changing the lyrics, like we do in church, but this isn’t the case.

We record the music, which includes all of us recording our parts (piano, organ, guitar, vocals) separately, and then I compile them to make the recording you hear. I then time the lyric changes to the music so it changes at the right point. The process from the moment we start takes approximately 5-6 hours work in total per hymn or song.

I can only speak for the music in the services, but I can only begin to imagine the time Simon puts in to his talks with the incredible images he has nowadays, and the time he puts in compiling everything he’s done and what I’ve sent him musically.

I’d love to say that’s it, but there is two more parts to what I do currently. I may not be playing music live on a Sunday, but between myself and Nilou, we are hosting the services every Sunday, while Simon leads. This involves mainly muting and unmuting people at the appropriate moments in the service so we can be all including, but as many of you will know, there are other parts to that job too, including recording the service for others to view outside of Sunday morning.

I mention that last bit, because the third and final part of what I’m doing, is (when restrictions permit) to take my
laptop and speakers to Shirley’s house, who doesn’t have any technology whatsoever and watch the service with her every week. She will be on her feet in her living room worshipping with all her heart to favourite like *Bless The Lord, O My Soul*.

I thought I’d write this article to give you an insight into what you see and hear each week at the moment, and although we all miss meeting together and worshipping live, I know I can thank God that we have the ability to keep worshipping from home in almost the same way as we would in church.

Keep singing everyone, and keep safe!

- Lee Dewsnap (Director of Music)

**ANNUAL NEOLOGISM CONTEST**

(submitted by Betty Barker)

The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words. Here are three:

1. **Coffee** (N.), the person upon whom one coughs.

2. **Flabbergasted** (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

3. **Abdicate** (V.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

... more next month
Poem: Catastrophes And Solutions

God is always with us
But do we always remember he is there?
Or do we forget when disaster hits us
And panic and look for solutions around elsewhere.

Everywhere like friends and computer
And perhaps belatedly and in panic say a prayer
God should have been our first stop and help line
His love and care for us is always there.

It is always difficult when you are really down and desperate
With health, the virus or life and family cares
They can all seem totally insurmountable
But with God nothing is impossible anywhere.

We may not get a solution immediately
But later, looking back, we will see he was there
He may have changed our direction in life completely
And led us through life’s maze to a very special ‘somewhere’.

A somewhere which has been much better for us
And we have enjoyed and most likely have achieved success
In retrospect we can see exactly when the change came
And thank God for turning us round and getting us out of our mess.

- © Diana Dishley, October 2020
ARTICLES

ADULT COLOURING PAGE

Jesus-Light of the World
Science can add years to your life, but only Christ can add life to your years – Anon

Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% of how you respond to it – Anon
GIVE YOURSELF A RETREAT IN 2020
ON THE HOLY ISLAND OF LINDISFARNE

HOME OF THE NORTHUMBRIAN SAINTS
CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLES
A NATURE RESERVE AND PLACE OF NATURAL BEAUTY
A “THIN PLACE” WHERE GOD SPEAKS

The Open Gate retreat house, belonging to the Community of Aidan and Hilda, welcomes individuals and small groups for personal retreats and teaching or to its public events.

Retreats include biblical and Celtic meditations, times of silence and opportunities to explore the island. Personal sessions available by request. All the events are in the framework of a Holy Island rhythm with optional morning and evening services at St Mary’s Church and weekday midday and night prayer in the Open Gate.

You can also stay at the Open Gate any time either for a personal retreat or just some time away. If you have never been on a retreat before, the Open Gate can provide you with plenty of suggestions how to spend your time with as much or as little structure as you prefer.

Although Covid-19 has imposed various restrictions, it is still possible to book a stay at the Open Gate. Call or email to check availability.

For further information contact:
The Open Gate, Holy Island, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2SD 01289 389222 opengate@aidanandhilda.org.uk www.aidanandhilda.org
We’d love to hear from you about prayer. Have you got a story about answered prayer? An insight which has helped you to pray better? An inspiring quotation about prayer? A prayer someone has written which you find useful? A question about prayer you’d like answered?

Two Vital Answers To Prayer

When Rae finished her two years as our volunteer Parish Assistant she was keen to carry on in her role with the Parish – and we were keen for her to do so because she offers so much. To do that she needed to find a part-time job in order to have an income, and a new place to live as her occupancy of the church house in Brentmead Gardens ended. Lots of people prayed hard.

In September Rae started a new job – which also provided her with the use of a car.

This month she moves into a flat . . . in Corringway!

When we pray, God opens doors.

Our regular monthly Parish Prayer Gatherings continue online on November 2nd. Keep in touch with the website, Facebook page and WhatsApp group for prayer information.
Supporting Mission:  
Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) and CLAAS (Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance, and Settlement)  

*Each month we profile one or more of the agencies the Parish supports through its financial giving.*

CSW is a human rights organisation working on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs and promoting religious liberty for all. As an advocacy organisation, CSW aims to influence governments and other bodies on religious freedom issues to ensure that the voice of the persecuted is heard. CSW also aims to mobilise people to pray, protest and provide on behalf of persecuted Christians. They work in Communist Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Sub Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. Several years ago CSW spearheaded the high profile campaign to free Meriam Ibrahim, under sentence of death in Sudan for converting to Christianity. To find out how to get involved visit [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk).

CLAAS is a local organisation, based in Southall, working for Christians in Pakistan persecuted because of their faith. Pakistan is an Islamic country where the Christian minority face social, economic and educational discrimination. The country's draconian blasphemy law (which can carry the death penalty) and other discriminatory laws are used to intimidate and harass Christians. CLAAS works to stop persecution of Christians in Pakistan, and promotes and protects human rights through advocacy and campaigns. It provides free legal aid to victims of religious intolerance, as well as shelter and financial support for victims and their families. To find out more visit [www.claas.org.uk](http://www.claas.org.uk).
The Last Zoom

Does your family say a prayer before you eat your food?

Non. We are French, we know how to cook.
<table>
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<th>Role</th>
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| VICAR                        | The Revd Simon Reed           | The Ascension Vicarage, Beaufort Road, Ealing W5 3EB | Tel: 020 8566 9920  
  e-mail: simonreed@ascensionealing.org |
| MINISTER at ST MARY’S        | The Revd Pete Harris          | 91 Ashbourne Rd, W5 3DH        | Tel: 020 8997 7852  
  e-mail: pete@richard-rose.co.uk |
| PASTORAL ASSISTANT           | Liz Williams                  | 13 Queen's Road, W5 2SA        | Tel: 020 8997 5578 |
| PARISH ASSISTANT             | Rae White                     | 48 Brentmead Gardens, NW10 7ED | Tel: 020 8965 6075 |
| CHURCH WARDEN:               | Colin McKenzie                | 26 Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford NW10 7DS | Tel: 020 8838 4531 |
| DEPUTY WARDENS:              | Rosy Sookias                  | 27 Audley Road, W5 3ES         | Tel: 020 8998 3670  
  Arby Ghazaryan (M), 69 Abbeyfields Close, NW10 |
| PCC SECRETARY:               | Liz Williams                  | 13 Queen's Road, W5 2SA        | Tel: 020 8997 5578 |
| PARISH TREASURER:            | Lindsey Anne Carter           | 13 Albany Rd, W13 8PQ          | Tel: 020 8997 1564  
  e-mail: lacumming@hotmail.com |
| PLANNED GIVING:              | Amir Zarifnia                 | 23 Crossway, Ealing W13 0AX    | Tel: 07722 040910  
  e-mail: fidpoint@gmail.com |
| ELECTORAL ROLL:              | Lucy Pavesi                   |                                 | Tel: 020 3532 2524 |
| CHILDREN’S CHAMPIONS         | The Revd Simon Reed (A)       | address above                   | Tel: 020 8566 9920  
  Annlinda Buckingham (M) – 29 Waverley Gardens, NW10 7EE |
| SAFEGUARDING                 | Liz Williams (A), 13 Queen’s Road, W5 2SA | Tel: 020 8997 5578 |
| OFFICERS                     | Colin McKenzie (M)            | 26 Brentmead Gdns, NW10        | Tel: 020 8838 4531 |
| SACRISTAN (A):               | Denise Avanessian             |                                 | Tel: 020 8810 7140 |
| DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:           | Lee Dewsnap                   |                                 | Tel: 07702 126971 |
| CHILDREN’S CLUB (A)          | Amanda Butcher                |                                 | Tel: 020 8992 4790 |
| JUNIOR CHURCH (M)            | Colin McKenzie                | address above                   | Tel: 020 8838 4531  
  Kester Worme (M), 38 Waverley Gardens, NW10 7EE  
  e-mail: kester_worme@yahoo.co.uk |
| HALL BOOKINGS:               | Liz Williams (A), 13 Queen’s Road, W5 2SA | Tel: 020 8997 5578  
  Kester Worme (M), 38 Waverley Gardens, NW10 7EE  
  e-mail: kester_worme@yahoo.co.uk |
| REGISTER OF RECOMMENDED TRADESPEOPLE – for information contact: | Sylvia Buckingham             | Tel: 020 8965 9051 |
|                              | John Harrison                 | Tel: 020 8998 2223             |
| PARISH NEWS:                 | c/o Revd Simon Reed           | e-mail: simonreed@ascensionealing.org |
| COPY                         | Roger Dishley                 | Tel: 020 8567 0275             |
| ADVERTISING                  | Eija O’Gorman (A)             | Tel: 020 8992 0061             |
| MAGAZINE                     | Kester Worme (M)              | Tel: 020 8963 0112             |
| DISTRIBUTION:                |                               |                               |
THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HANGER HILL

Beaufort Road, London W5 3EB

Wheel chair access at front entrance

Sundays
0900 HOLY COMMUNION
1030 ZOOM ONLINE MORNING SERVICE (with Holy Communion)
   including Children's Group
   All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month

The Church is normally open for DAILY PRAYER 9.00-9.30am and 5.30-6pm weekdays

Other Activities (currently suspended)
• Ascension Friends retired people’s club  • Actions Songs & Rhymes Toddler Group
• Community Choir

ST MARY'S, WEST TWYFORD

Brentmead Gardens, London NW10 7ED

Sundays
1030 ZOOM ONLINE MORNING SERVICE (with Holy Communion)
   including Children's Group
   All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month

Thursdays
1200 HOLY COMMUNION (3rd Thurs of month)

Other Activities
• Beans & Leaves Café - currently closed due to Tier 2 restrictions
Currently suspended - Stay and Play Toddler Group  • Coffee Morning  • Jazz Club

HOME GROUPS, COURSES, AND YOUTH GROUP

Meetings currently online

Please check the website www.ascensionealing.org to keep in touch with what we are doing online and to gain access to Zoom events.

Copy for next issue must be received by Simon by end of Thursday 19th November 2020.