

The Messenger



Monthly Newsletter of St John the Baptist Church,
Greenhill, Harrow

FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Friends,

As I write, our nation is in mourning. We have just reached the unwanted milestone of 100,000 related to Covid-19. The Church has been quite visible today, and the Archbishop has been on TV reflecting on the current situation and calling the nation to prayer.

There is a deeply Christian aspect to doing all we can to fight this disease. When we keep to the rules we show consideration, not just obedience. When we break the rules, we put our own wants above the common good. Jesus calls us to love God, and in doing so to put others first. The fight against Covid-19 is an internal battle sometimes, and we do well to remind ourselves that this is a spiritual question, not just a medical one.

In his reflection, Justin Welby has made this issue distinctively "Christian". Having received his Covid-19 vaccination last month he reminds us that "Jesus Christ calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Getting the vaccine is part of that commandment: we can show our love for each other by keeping each other safe from this terrible disease."

I am hoping that many of you will already have received your vaccination or will shortly be doing so. Once again, I urge to take advantage of this wonderful scientific advance. God often "delivers us from evil" through the medium of human

ingenuity, the God-given capacity to problem solve. The overwhelming evidence is that this vaccine is safe and effective, and the return to new normality in our society rests heavily upon it. Please do get the jab when you can.

Our Community

I am pleased to say that I am not receiving reports at present of church people who are ill with Covid-19. People also seem to be doing well, and are being well looked after by friends, neighbours, and relatives. The quality of neighbourly care seems to be upliftingly high and, in most cases, this works well. If that is not the case then please do let me know and we will see how we can help. Please also pray for Fr David as he ministers in Northwick Park Hospital and is now very busy.

Our Mission

Sadly, much of St John's mission lies dormant since so much is based on face-to-face contact. But we have been able to have a successful Alpha Course. There is a wide, deep and difficult task of re-starting the church coming up and I will be appealing to you all for help. Please do reflect prayerfully on what you feel God may be calling you to do at St John's. I will communicate about Lent separately.

Ecology, "Eco Church" and an Eco-Champion

The diocese has set a target for all churches to be carbon neutral by 2030. As part of this, there is an Eco-Church campaign (website, resources etc). I am looking for a St John's "Eco Champion" to work with me and the PCC in furthering this objective. The Role Description is included in this letter. If you feel that could be you, please contact me direct.

Reopening

We have discussed our approach to restarting services at PCC. This is not likely to be soon, but I am monitoring the daily case rate in Harrow (557 per 100k at the time of writing), consulting the Deanery and central Harrow Churches. The most likely approach will be to align ourselves to a Tier level, where something equivalent to the old Tier 3 will be the most appropriate time to restart public worship.

Communication

If you get this letter by post, but could get it by email, could you please let me know. This saves us a lot of time and some cost as we seek to keep the church informed, and you will also get more frequent updates.

Rev. Barry Hingston

Meetings on Zoom

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm "Coffee and Compline": meet and chat, with Night Prayer

Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am: midweek Eucharist (Common Worship).

Sunday mornings at 10:30 am: a broadcast on Zoom of a pre-recorded worship service, all welcome (non-real time YouTube version also)

By computer, smartphone or tablet :
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8499446696?pwd=U2czS3ZqeVExVnBLVitKcGR2bzZrUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 944 6696

Password: 698806

By telephone: Dial any of these local numbers: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240. (Call costs will depend on your contract.)

If you use the telephone option to join, enter the meeting ID followed by #, then a participant ID which is just # again, and then the password followed by #.

Pray this month for.....

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	Hebrews 11: 32-end Ps 31: 19-end Mark 5: 1-20	All the volunteers and organisations who are involved in the vaccination programme.
2nd	Hebrews 12: 1-4 Ps 22: 25b-end Mark 5: 21-end	Kindle in our hearts the knowledge of your love for all people, the ability to think well of others and the willingness to extend your compassionate hands to those in need.
3rd	Hebrew 12: 4-7, 11-15 Ps 103: 1-2, 13-18 Mark 6: 1-6a	Lord Jesus we know that the path of evil leads to suspicion, division and hatred. We pray for the nations of the world, divided by fear and more willing to hurt than heal.
4th	1 Hebrews 12: 18-19, 21-24 Ps 48: 1-3, 8-10 Mark 6: 7-13	Our clergy team here are St John's, Barry, Ajay and Fr David who are working tirelessly during this difficult time.
5th	Hebrews 13: 1-8 Ps 27: 1-6, 9-12 Mark 6: 14-29	Teach us to confront darkness within and without by becoming those who shine in our deeds the light of Christ.
6th	Hebrews 13: 15-17, 20-21 Ps 23 Mark 6: 30-34	We thank you Heavenly Father for your protection and care for us and we place into your care those who are in need and those who suffer.
Sun 7th	Col 1: 15-20 Ps 104: 26-end John 1: 1-14	May your loving kindness be known in their hearts as we commend them to your safe keeping.
8th	Gen 1: 1-19 Ps 104: 1,2, 6-13, 26 Mark 6: 53-end	In the midst of pain, suffering and evil help us to trust in your salvation and speak your word of truth to dispel the darkness and keep aflame the light of faith.

9th	Gen 1: 20-2: 4a Ps 8 Mark 7: 1-13	All who work in the medical profession; district nurses.
10th	Gen 2: 4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104: 11-12, 29-32 Mark 7: 14-23	We pray for those who need care, help and love and we ask that the heavenly joy of your kingdom would make us a people eager to share the good news of your presence among us.
11th	Gen 2: 18-end Ps 128 Mark 7: 24-30	We pray for the needs of the world and ask that you would fill your church with your compassion that all humanity would encounter your saving grace.
12th	Gen 3: 1-8 Ps 32: 1-8 Mark 7: 31-end	We pray for those who have died and those who mourn for them. God of the life, through you we pass from the shadow of death to the light of the resurrection.
13th	Gen 3: 9-end Ps 90: 1-12 Mark 8: 1-10	We pray for men and women affected by violence in the home and for those who live by violence.
Sun 14th	2 Cor 4: 3-6 Ps 50: 1-6 Mark 9: 2-9	The people of this parish and to our neighbouring parishes.
15th	Gen 4: 1-15, 25 Ps 50: 1, 8, 16-end Mark 8: 11-13	Give us strength to act and challenge hatred, and instead bring your justice and mercy.
16th	Gen 6: 5-8; 7: 1-5, 10 Ps 29 Mark 8: 14-21	On this Shrove Tuesday , Lord help us to enjoy and give thanks to you for the bounty you provide for us and remind us to share your gifts with others.
17th	2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10 Ps 51: 1-18 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	Ash Wednesday. As Lent begins today prepare our hearts and minds to reflect upon the temptation of Jesus for 40 days and nights and what that means for us.
18th	Deut 30: 15-end Ps 1 Luke 9: 22-25	Pray for the Metropolitan Police; Harrow Street Pastors and for the work and support they do on the streets of Harrow.

19th	Isa 58: 1-9a Ps 51: 1-5, 17-18 Matthew 9: 14-15	We pray that water and other vital supplies might not be used as a weapon of war in countries where resources are scarce.
20th	Isa 58: 9b-end Ps 86: 1-7 Luke 5: 27-32	We pray that the dignity of life is respected.
Sun 21st	1 Peter 3: 18-end Ps 25: 1-9 Mark 1: 9-15	May we act to challenge injustice and seek to affirm your love for all humankind.
22nd	Leviticus 19: 1-12, 11-18 Ps 19: 7-end Matthew 25: 31-end	As we rejoice in the generosity of your love to us, may we sit loosely to our possessions and be willing to give ourselves in the service of others.
23rd	Isa 55: 10-11 Ps 34: 4-6, 21-22 Matthew 6: 7-15	In this Lenten time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom.
24th	Jonah 3 Ps 51: 1-5, 17-18 Luke 11: 29-32	All students and teachers at our local Schools, Colleges and Westminster University.
25th	Esther 14: 1-5, 12-14 Ps 138 Matthew 7: 7-12	Justin, our Archbishop, Sarah and Peter, our bishops. Bless your Church today with gifts of care and nurture, give a pastoral heart to bishops, priests and deacons, and strengthen all who are called to be leaders of your people.
26th	Ezekiel 18: 21-28 Ps 130 Matthew 5: 20-26	Give thanks for the work of our local council, and ask that God would use them to help bring peace, prosperity, righteousness, and hope to Harrow.
27th	Deut 26: 16-end Ps 119: 1-8 Matthew 5: 43-end	Break the petty walls that separate us from others, that force us to keep distance with others that marks us distinct and exclusive.
Sun 28th	Romans 4: 13-end Ps 22: 23-end Mark 8: 31-end	God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days. Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth.