

# The Messenger



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

## JANUARY 2021

Dear Friends

May I wish you a very happy New Year for 2021. I am so mindful of the context of those words as we commence the year in a near “lockdown” situation, surrounded by grim statistics, and the ever-present sense of peril. We never believed we would still be here when we first entered this Covid season in March, yet here we are.

You may think that 2020 must have been a washout for us, but far from it. It is true that many of our face-to-face ministries have had to be suspended and we greatly miss them. No concerts, no Welcome Centre, no singing, and so much else is absent from our normal life. But we have pulled together as a community and found out about new talents. We still meet each week, and I am in regular contact with almost everyone. We do much online and are present in the church when we can.

As I write the circumstances do not look good in Harrow; naturally things may change in the course of the next few weeks, but it looks highly likely that we will have to continue in our current pattern. We meet in church at 9:00 am on Sundays and 10:30 online, and I am hoping that can continue. Tier 4 has not caused places of worship to close at the present time.

Looking forward we will now start to plan the year ahead. We will need to get better at online worship and continue to reach out to those who are not able to get online. I am grateful to those who have spent time on the phone and making sure the “off network” people are OK. So far, all the information I have has indicated that people are managing OK, and that the spirit of good neighbourliness is by no means dead in London. Let us praise God for that.

Lent will soon be upon us and I will let you know what we have in place for that. There will be an annual appeal, I'm sure and we would want to be a part of that. Obviously, I pray that Lent and Easter will be back to normal, but we must face the prospect that this will not be the case. In that case we will do all we can to make sure that the spiritual engagement of Lent and Holy Week is maintained as best we can.

Thank you all for being careful and disciplined. I am delighted to note that, as far as I am aware, only a very few of our numbers have been unwell and they have made a good recovery. I really want to keep it that way, and I encourage you to stay alert, make space, wash your hands, and wear those face coverings. January and February will not be easy times, and the virus appears to be more transmissible than before. Please be careful.

My prayer for all of you is that you know the presence and the strength of the Lord ever more deeply though this crisis, indeed because of it. Because we know we are not in control of our destinies, we call upon the Lord to be saved (Romans 10:13, Joel 2:32). “Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will

never let the righteous be shaken.” Psalm 55:22. Please do use this newsletter to guide your reading and prayer over the next month.

I look forward to seeing and hearing from each one of you in the course of 2021. God bless you all.

**Rev. Barry Hingston**

**Services** : January 3rd : 9:00 am in church, 10:30am online, and until further notice.

### Meetings on Zoom

**Tuesday evenings at 7:30** “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	Gal 4: 4-7 Ps 8 Luke 2: 15-21	All who volunteer to make our on-line services possible. At the start of this new year, may they feel always valued here and rewarded by your blessings.
2nd	1 John 2: 22-28 Ps 98: 1-4 John 1: 19-28	We pray for our hospitals and nursing homes. For the work and devotion of carers whose skill and compassion bring both material and spiritual comfort at times of need.
Sun 3rd	Eph 3: 1-12 Ps 72: 10-15 Matt 2: 1-12	<b>Epiphany.</b> Lord, be our daily star, guiding our lives to search for kingdom love.
4th	1 John 3: 22, 4: 6 Ps 2: 7-end Matt 4: 12-17, 23-end	Lord help us to be more outward looking, to care for our neighbours and to be more aware of the needs of the people around us.
5th	1 John 4: 7-10 Ps 72: 1-8 Mark 6: 34-44	We pray for all who seek healing and hope.
6th	1 John 4: 11-18 Ps 72: 1, 10-13 Mark 6: 45-52	We bring before you those most in need in our own community, the elderly, the housebound and those in care.
7th	1 John 4: 1-, 5: 4 Ps 72: 1, 17-end Luke 4: 14-22	We pray for our towns and our cities. We pray for areas of danger, for places of corruption, for poor housing and for the homeless.
8th	1 John 5: 5-13 Ps 147: 13-end Luke 5: 12-16	In our own church we pray for our ministers, for our leadership team and all those who give their time and talents so generously to build your Kingdom here.
9th	1 John 5: 14-end Ps 149: 1-5 John 3: 22-30	We pray that all who are baptised here become confident followers of Christ.
Sun 10th	Acts 19: 1-17 Ps 29 Mark 1: 4-11	On this day when we remember the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all of those who have confessed your name in baptism and we remember especially those who experience persecution for

		their open profession of faith.
11th	Heb 1: 1-6 Ps 97: 1-2, 6-10 Mark 1: 14-20	We pray for our leaders, both near and in far flung corners of the earth.
12th	Heb 2: 5-12 Ps 8 Mark 1: 21-28	Give us your willingness to be alongside those who suffer and who are in need with conviction and without prejudice.
13th	Heb 2: 14-end Ps 105: 1-9 Mark 1: 29-39	Gracious Lord, sit with those who are alone, even in a crowd.
14th	Heb 3: 7-14 Ps 95: 1, 8-end Mark 1: 40-end	We pray for those who mourn, fresh in grief or even after a number of years have passed.
15th	Heb 4: 1-5, 11 Ps 78: 3-8 Mark 2: 1-12	We pray for those who have troubled lives. Those who rely on things which threaten their lives, those who lives have been irreparably damaged and broken.
16th	Heb 4: 12-end Ps 19: 7-end Mark 2: 13-17	The Archbishop and province of Canterbury and the Archbishop and province of York.
Sun 17th	Rev 5: 1-10 Ps 139: 1-5, 12-18 John 1: 43-end	We pray that as we come before your table today that our communion is a precious time of fellowship with Jesus Christ as we thankfully remember his redeeming love and meet with him as our living Lord.
18th	Heb 5: 1-10 Ps 110: 1-4 Mark 2: 18-22	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Break down the walls which separate us; unite us with your bonds of love and accomplish your will.
19th	Heb 6: 10-end Ps 111 Mark 2: 23-end	We pray for our own country and its peoples, for the Queen, her ministers
20th	Heb 7: 1-3, 15-17 Ps 110: 1-4 Mark 3: 1-6	We remember especially those who work in our National Health Service and the increased demand placed upon all its services.
21st	Heb 7: 25, 8: 6 Ps 40: 7-10, 17-end Mark 3: 7-12	We pray for all engaged in humanitarian work in many parts of the world and for members of our

		own armed forces.
22nd	Heb 8: 6-end Ps 85: 7-end Mark 3: 13-19	We pray for our homes that they may be filled with your presence
23rd	Heb 9: 2-3, 11-14 Ps 47: 1-8 Mark 3: 20-21	We remember those who await a doctor's diagnosis or an operation. We pray for all who seek healing and hope.
Sun 24th	Rev 19: 6-10 Ps 128 John 2: 1-11	We pray for every member of this congregation and ask that you bless us all this coming week.
25th	Acts 9: 1-22 Ps 67 Matt 19: 27-end	<b>Conversion of Paul.</b> We pray for our own deeper conversion. May we be tireless apostles for the Gospel and emulate St. Paul's profound love of Christ.
26th	Isa 61: 1-3a Ps 100 Luke 10: 1-9	Harrow Mencap as they continue to use the church as a support group every Tuesday.
27th	Heb 10: 11-18 Ps 110: 1-4 Mark 4: 1-20	The new Victoria Hall and its reopening this year. Pray for the existing and new Trustees of the Hall.
28th	Heb 10: 19-25 Ps 24: 1-6 Mark 4: 21-25	St Thomas Aquinas. Give thanks for the inspiration for all teachers of the Christian faith.
29th	Heb 10: 32-end Ps 37: 3-6, 40-end Mark 4: 26-34	The leaders of nations and all who work for peace.
30th	Heb 11: 1-12, 8-19 <i>Canticle:</i> Luke 1: 69-73 Mark 4: 35-end	We pray for the world-wide Christian Church in all its diversity, bringing the elements of different cultures into their worship and in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Sun 31st	Heb 2: 14-end Ps 24: 7-end Luke 2: 22-40	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas).</b> As we enter the Lenten season of penitence and discipline, help us to be alive to your Spirit, who searches all our hearts and renews our lives as we offer our faith and obedience.