



The **ST. JOHN'S HARROW** Messenger

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

JUNE 2020

Dear Friends,

“The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.” Romans 5:5

I write this as I prepare for Pentecost Sunday which we will be celebrating on May 31st. We all perhaps feel a little helpless, caught up in bigger forces than we can control. Perhaps we are feeling anxious about the future too, whether for fear of illness or of economic hardship.

It feels appropriate to me to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, because we need the presence of God dwelling within us, and because it is in the Spirit that we are united with each other whilst physically separate. We clearly need God to move over earth right now to restore us. I pray that you may know the presence of the Holy Spirit at this special time, and that may bring you peace and calm.

The good news is that we are starting to plan what the church might look like when we reopen, and when that might be. I am slightly hampered writing this, as a Government announcement concerning the phase of relaxation lockdown is due on May 28th. The statistics in London are all moving in the right direction such that we may hope that the timetables outlined a few weeks ago can apply.

That means that churches *may* be open for some sort of worship from (not necessarily on) July 5th.

This is the earliest date that the Government may allow it and we may need to continue meeting virtually for longer than that, we simply do not know. However, subject to announcements it is a good working date to plan around.

We will almost certainly be very restricted, and if we cannot make the environment safe then we will need to wait. This means hygiene measures at the door, and attendance restrictions to maintain the 2m distancing required. Sung worship and communion will also be very restricted, as will coffee and tea. “Church” will feel quite different, but if we can meet then at least we can provide fellowship, hear the word preached and prayers made.

Once the announcement is made, and the bishops have had a chance to respond to it, then I will be in touch again to let you know what we are planning to do. So please pray.

“The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our pleas in a way that could never be put into words.” Romans 8:

Please continue to pray for families who have lost loved ones in the past few weeks.

Doris and William Duesbury who mourn the loss of Doris’s brother Maurice.
Claire Cook who has lost her father, and Elaine Luk whose father has also died.
For Simon Patrick and his sister Catherine who mourn the loss of both parents at this time, Mary and John Patrick.

The family of Maureen Scales who died two weeks ago, well known to us from her support of our concerts.

The family of Nick Judd who worshipped with us when in the UK, who died at the end of March.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Barry Hingston

Meetings on Zoom

We will continue to hold the following get-together calls on Zoom in May:

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 “Coffee and Compline”: meet and chat, finishing with Night Prayer from various traditions.

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

Sunday mornings at 10:00 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.

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 #.

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	Ps.113 Rom: 12: 9-16 Luke: 1: 39-49	All who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery.
2nd	Ps.90: 1-4, 10,14,16 2 Peter 3: 11-15a, 17-end Mk. 12: 13-17	Harrow Mencap who continue to serve the learning disabled. The clients of our Welcome Centre .
3rd	Ps. 123 2 Tim 1: 1-3,6-12 Mk 12: 18-27	Those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions.
4th	Ps.25: 4-12 2 Tim 2: 8-15 Mk 12: 28-34	Postal Workers who risk infection by delivering much needed letters and parcels.
5th	Ps.119: 161-168 2 Tim 3: 10-end Mk 12: 35-37	Staff caring for the sick in Care Homes. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health.
6th	Ps.71: 7-16 2 Tim 4: 1-8 Mk 12: 38-end	Front-line staff at supermarkets who continue to keep the shelves stacked.
7th	Ps.8 2 Cor 13:11-end Matt 28: 16-20	Doctors, nurses, and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health.
8th	Ps.121 1 Kings 17: 1-6 Matt 5: 1-12	Businesses in lockdown. Place in your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems.
9th	Ps.4 1 Kings 17: 7-16 Matt 5: 13-16	The Government and Civil Servants. May they continue to make just and wise decisions in the forthcoming weeks.
10th	Ps.16: 1, 6-end 1 Kings 18: 20-39 Matt 5: 17-19	Children of key workers who miss their friends and extra curriculum activities. Reassure them that good times will come again.

11th	Ps. 112 Acts 11: 19-end John 15: 12-17	Our homes and families, schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress.
12th	Ps.27: 8-16 1 Kings 19: 9, 11-16 Matt 5: 27-32	Christian Communities. Remind them, at this time, that they are not people of fear, but people of courage
13th	Ps.16: 1-7 1 Kings 19: 19-end Matt 5: 33-37	Those who live in isolation. Be with them today and everyday as they battle loneliness.
14th	Ps.116: 1, 10-17 Rom 5: 1-8 Matt 9: 35-10: 8	The armed forces for their logistical work in delivering much needed supplies.
15th	Ps. 5: 1-5 1 Kings 21: 1-16 Matt 5: 38-42	British Companies who have been resourceful and innovative in supporting the NHS.
16th	Ps. 51: 1-9 1 Kings 21: 17-end Matt 5: 43-end	Companies who are providing extra help for customers who may be struggling at this time.
17th	Ps.31: 21-end 2 Kings 2: 1,6-14 Matt 6: 1-6, 16-18	A blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship.
18th	Ps. 97: 1-8 Isa 63: 7-9 Matt 6: 7-15	The health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious.
19th	Ps. 132: 1-5, 11-13 2 Kings 11: 1-4, 9-18, 20 Matt 6: 19-23	Hospital chaplains everywhere, especially Fr David in NPH.
20th	Ps. 89: 25-33 2 Chron 24: 17-25 Matt 6: 24-end	The isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability.
21st	Ps.86: 1-10, 16-end Rom 6: 1b-11 Matt 10: 24-39	Hospices, especially St Luke's as they suffer great strain and lost income.

22nd	Ps. 60: 1-5, 11-end 2 Kings 17: 5-8, 13-15, 18 Matt 7: 1-5	Everyone working from home. May they know that by staying at home they have supported the NHS and saved lives
23rd	Ps.48: 1-2, 8-end 2 Kings 19: 9b-11, 14-21, 31-36 Matt 7: 6, 12-14	The vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace.
24th	Ps.85: 7-end Acts 13: 14b-26 Luke 1: 57-66, 80	John the Baptist who was sent from God and came as a witness to testify to the light.
25th	Ps 79: 1-9, 12 2 Kings 24: 8-17 Matt 7: 21-end	All the churches in Central Harrow that we know.
26th	Ps. 137: 1-6 2 Kings 25: 1-12 Matt 8: 1-4	Bishops and Archdeacons in these unprecedented times.
27th	Ps. 74: 1-3, 21-end Lam.2 2: 10-14, 18-19 Matt 8: 5-7	Other faiths in our community. For St John's itself, that we continue to serve and thrive.
28th	Ps. 13 Rom 6: 12-end Matt 10: 40-end	The Chinese Church who usually meet at St John's.
29th	Ps. 125 Acts 12: 1-11 Matt 16: 13-19	St Peter and St Paul. Keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship.
30th	Ps. 5: 8-end Amos 3: 1-8, 4: 11-12 Matt 8: 23-27	Places were community has been destroyed; may people turn to you, and community grow again.