

# The Messenger



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

## MARCH 2021

Dear Friends,

I do hope you are all well. As I write the sun is out and the signs of Spring are here. With the background mood music changing, thanks to the vaccination programme and the spring like weather, I can sense that our confidence is rising. I recall Psalm 107 which starts with the words, **“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe.”**

Below you will see our first “roadmap” in light of the Government’s “4 Steps”. Please hold this lightly and remember it is a moving situation, but this is looking very hopeful.

### Lent Appeal

Firstly, a reminder of the Diocesan Lent Appeal supporting three charities combatting youth violence. This is especially relevant in Harrow as we have lost two young people to stabbings in the last few months. There are two ways you can give, directly or via St John’s: -

(i) **Direct via the website:**  
<https://www.give.net/LentAppeal2021/fundraising>

(ii) **Via St John’s:** you can send a cheque to the church (please, no cash), payable to “The

PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John's Greenhill Harrow”, and write “Lent Appeal 2021” on the reverse.

### Ben Cook

Enclosed with this newsletter is another letter from one of our young people, Ben Cook. Ben has spent time “Mercy Ships”, a missionary organisation, whilst his career is on hold in lockdown. His letter is a real encouragement. Please pray for him and all young people.

### Reopening Update: the “Roadmap”

The PCC agreed that we would consider reopening when the restrictions resembled the old “Tier 3” status. The criteria I am using are:

- **Safety first:** virus levels must be low, similar to the early autumn. They are currently high, though falling.
- **“Tier 3”:** or similar.
- **Churches Together in Central Harrow** consensus - we are trying to coordinate action together.
- **Inclusion:** we want to minimise the exclusion of sectors of our community.
- **Time:** we need a little time to get the church ready, and construct new rotas.
- **Sustainability and adaptability;** what we do we need to be able to keep doing. Everything is data dependant, and we must be ready for temporary setbacks.

**Step 1 - March 8:** for us very little changes, this resembles Tier 4 prior to January 6th. Crucially, the stay-at-home order remains in place. This means that Palm Sunday will be online again this year. The changes from **March 29th** do end the “stay at home order”, meaning we will consider what we do in Holy Week. In all likelihood most

services in Holy Week will remain online this year.

**Step 2: April 12th:** this looks much more like Tier 3 up to December 20 (outdoor attractions, libraries, all shops, outdoor hospitality). Because we have not had time to discuss this yet at PCC, the following is not yet firm but the current consensus is:-

- no change yet or for all of March, up to and including Palm Sunday.
- Holy Week is up for discussion, but I/we feel we will get much better attendance online at this stage and we cannot do both types of service (Maundy, Good Friday).
- we may opt for Easter Sunday as a restart date, or we may wait for Step 2 on April 12th (or Sunday 18th)

So, we are currently considering two services again from EITHER Easter Sunday, or mid April, and keep them until September. I must stress that this is the 9:00 service with all its attendant restrictions, until (we think) June 21st, and we will be keeping the 10:30 Zoom service running. At the time of writing we have no plans yet to change the Wednesday 10:30 service, or reintroduce an evening service.

We are not in the clear yet. The virus levels in Harrow are still high (close to November levels when we were in lockdown). We must remember that. I urge you to take your vaccination when it is offered and to comply with all the local guidance. But also give thanks to the Lord for we are in a wonderful place relative to this time last year.

With all my love and prayers,

**Rev. Barry Hingston**  
**St Johns**

## Pray this month for.....

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	Daniel 9: 4-10 Ps 79: 8-9, 12, 14 Luke 6: 36-38	<b>St David.</b> May we act and be like St. David (Dewi Sant) in how he cared for other people in his daily life.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Isa 1: 10, 16-20 Ps 50: 8, 16-end Matt 23: 1-12	Take away fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jer 18: 18-20 Ps 31: 4-5, 14-18 Matt 20: 17-28	We pray for those threatened with loss of their livelihood and facing an uncertain future.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jer 17: 5-10 Ps 1 Luke 16: 19-end	We pray for anyone personally known to us who are in special need of our prayers at this time.
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gen 37: 3-4, 12-13, 17-28 Ps 105: 16-22 Matt 21: 33-43, 45-46	For all new recruits, apprentices, trainees. May they work in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation, in a safe and happy environment.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20 Ps 103: 1-4, 9-12 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-end	Those who have authority in our national life, framing our laws and shaping our common life.
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup></b>	1 Cor 1: 18-25 Ps. 19 John 2: 13-22	We pray for those who lead us here and at St John's: give them strength for all that they seek to be and to do.
8 <sup>th</sup>	2 Kings 5: 1-15 Ps. 42: 1-2, 43: 1-4 Luke 4: 24-30	People whose lives are clouded by death or loss, pain or disability, discouragement or fear, shame or rejection.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Dan 2: 20-23 Ps. 25: 3-10 Matt 18: 21-end	We pray for our Queen and her family, and for those who govern in her name.
10 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 4: 1, 5-9 Ps. 147: 13-end Matt 5: 17-19	All children; help us who are older to remember the adventure and joy of youth as well as the temptations and frustrations.
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jer 7: 23-28 Ps 95: 1-2, 6-end Luke 11: 14-23	Faithful God, we pray for our healthcare workers and first responders. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts.

12 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 14 Ps. 81: 6-10, 13, 16 Mark 12: 28-34	Those who teach, heal and care, and all who give freely of themselves in the service of others.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Hosea 5: 15-6: 6 Ps. 51: 1-2, 17-end Luke 18: 9-14	Give us grace towards each other, especially when we are tired or tense.
<b>Sun 14<sup>th</sup></b>	2 Cor 1: 3-7 Ps 34: 11-20 John 19: 25b-27	We pray especially for mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all those women who have loved and laughed, wept and worked to care for others.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Isa 65: 17-21 Ps. 30: 1-5, 8, 11-end John 4: 43-end	We give thanks for all technicians, scientists, medical personnel, biotech companies and government agencies that have worked together to find a C-19 vaccine that will restore our communities to wholeness and health.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ezek. 47: 1-9, 12 Ps. 46: 1-8 John 5: 1-3, 5-16	Give us grace towards each other, especially when we are tired or tense.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Isa 49: 8-15 Ps. 145: 8-18 John 5: 17-30	<b>St Patrick.</b> Pray for charities who help to alleviate the suffering of the forgotten, the impoverished, and put an end to child suffering, abuse and slavery.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Ex. 32: 7-14 Ps. 106: 19-23 John 5: 31-end	We pray for the church, both at home and around the world.
19 <sup>th</sup>	2 Sam. 7: 4-16 Ps. 89: 26-36 Matt. 1: 18-end	<b>Joseph of Nazareth</b> Lord, give us grace to follow Joseph in faithful obedience to your commands.
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jer. 11: 18-20 Ps. 7: 1-2, 8-10 John 7: 40-52	<b>St Cuthbert.</b> Lord, may we steward Your creation to Your glory and for the benefit of future generations.
<b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Heb 5: 5-10 Ps. 51: 1-13 John 12: 20-33	We pray especially for those we know who are having a difficult time, who need special reassurance and understanding.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joshua 2: 1-14 Ps. 23 John 8: 1-11	Our loved ones, friends and those who have recently died.

23 <sup>rd</sup>	Numbers 21: 4-9 Ps. 102: 1-3, 16-23 John 8: 21-30	We pray for special grace for all carers. Give them your love and kindness and understanding of the real needs of those they look after.
24 <sup>th</sup>	Jer 22: 20-23: 8 Ps. 55 John 12: 1-11	For all shops, banks and offices in the town centre of Harrow.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Isa 7: 10-14 Ps. 40: 5-11 Luke 1: 26-38	All online Bible Study, Alpha and Lent Groups. Help us to move into a deeper understanding of Your truth.
26 <sup>th</sup>	Jer 20: 10-13 Ps. 18: 1-6 John 10: 31-end	The work of Social Services and housing in Harrow and nationwide.
27 <sup>th</sup>	Ezek. 37: 21-end Ps. 21 John 11: 45-end	Pray for those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy.
<b>Clocks go forward 1 hour – British Summer Time begins.</b>		
<b>Sun 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Phil. 2: 5-11 Ps. 31: 9-16 Mark 14: 1-end of 15	<b>Palm Sunday.</b> Pray for the beginning of Holy Week, the start of the journey towards the power of the cross, the victory of the Resurrection.
29 <sup>th</sup>	Isa 42: 1-9 Ps. 36: 5-11 John 12: 1-11	We pray for those with disabilities. May they find peace and fulfilment in knowing you and discovering your will for their lives.
30 <sup>th</sup>	Isa 49: 1-7 Ps. 71: 1-14 John 12: 20-36	Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all you have created and to continue learning and growing.
31 <sup>st</sup>	Isa 50: 4-9a Ps. 70 John 13: 21-32	We pray that the leaders of the nations and people everywhere may turn to You, so that war and terror, cruelty and hatred may end, and peace and justice.