

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

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

JULY/AUGUST 2021

Dear Friends

This is not an easy messenger to write because like you, I really do not know what's going on! At the time of writing, I am halfway between one postponed "Freedom Day" and the next one, currently scheduled for July 19th. It has been a long time coming and there are varying opinions about whether we are moving too slow or too fast, but July 19th it is.

The trouble is we don't really know what it will mean. There has been no talk whatsoever of the detail, particularly in relation to churches. So, it is not clear whether there will be an immediate return to hymn singing, or even sharing communion in both kinds, a matter over which I expect there to be some debate. It is, however, all quiet on the episcopal front (at least on these matters).

So what can we say? The pattern of worship stays the same for July and August - that is to say, we meet in church at 9:00 and online at 10:30. We will continue Tuesday night coffee and compline sessions and Wednesday online communion. But some other things are happening too.

Summer Concerts

The Harrow Summer Music Festival is back courtesy of some friends of St John's, Steve Law and Neil Crossland. These commence on **July 1st** and go right through to September 2nd. I have emailed out the programme and there are some leaflets in church if you come on Sunday. The concerts are free with a retiring collection. Concerts start at 12:30 pm, with some dates having two concerts (12:30 and 3:00 pm).

We intend to recommence the St John's concerts in the autumn. This is being planned now and if you are interested in helping, please contact either myself or Simon Patrick.

Open Church

Before the pandemic the church opened literally every day of the week. Sadly this is far from the case at the moment and we would like to improve that. So, the call is out for volunteers to man the church in two hour slots so that we can open it for private prayer. This will pave the way for a full return to normality including, we hope, the Welcome Centre and other groups. Please do contact me if you have any desire to help in this way.

Service times

There is no immediate change, but we would like to return to the old service time of 10am and return to one service in the morning when the time is right. Clearly 9am suits some, but it is a barrier to many. This is difficult to plan but it is likely that we will revert to one service sometime in September (probably) and seek to lay on some kind of streaming facility to reach

out to those who still prefer to worship from home on Zoom. This is a work in progress. Once we are back to normal we will restart other things like collecting for the Food Bank. The focus is on having as normal a Christmas as possible, and to start planning for 2022.

Building Work

The Hall is now finished and heading for a September opening, and the new flats are all occupied. We now turn our focus to the final stage of our own building work and will be seeking permissions to build an exterior annexe to the church in 2022. This will provide some social space, a small kitchen and crucially three extra toilets including one with disabled access. I sincerely hope this work will be completed within 12 months of this newsletter. The revamped electrical intake associated with this work will also enable us to finish the vestry kitchen.

That is a busy programme. The normal work of church life goes on too, with its pastoral and discipleship opportunities, as does our witness to the love and light of Christ in a post-pandemic community. We must remember that we are the "light on top of the hill" (Matthew 5:14) with a story to tell.

Barry Hingston (Revd)
Vicar



Pray this month for.....

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	Gen 22: 1-19 Ps. 116: 1-7 Matt 9: 1-8	Justin, our Archbishop, Sarah, Bishop of London and Peter, our Area Bishop.
2nd	Gen 23: 1-4, 19, 24, 1-8, 62-end Ps. 106: 1-5 Matt 9: 9-13	The media and the arts who have been hit badly during the Covid-19 crisis.
3rd	Eph 2: 19-end Ps. 31: 1-6 John 20: 24-29	Thomas the Apostle. Give thanks for the gift of faith.
Sun 4th	2 Cor 12: 2-10 Ps. 48 Mark 6: 1-13	All workers in the hospitality sector, especially pubs, cafes and restaurants as they continue to welcome us into their establishments over the summer period.
5th	Gen 28: 10-end Ps. 91: 1-10 Matt 9: 18-26	All who work in the medical and healing professions; district nurses and home-helps.
6th	Gen 32: 22-end Ps. 17: 1-8 Matt 9: 32-end	The Mayor of Harrow and local MP's.
7th	Gen 41: 55-end, 42: 5-7, 17-end Ps. 33: 1-4, 18-end Matt 10: 1-7	Clergy of the Central Harrow churches as they prepare to return to a normal pattern of worship and hospitality.
8th	Gen 44: 18-21, 23-29, 45: 1-5 Ps. 105: 11-17 Matt 10: 7-15	We give thanks for human love and friendship and for all that enriches our daily lives.
9th	Gen 46: 1-7, 28-30 Ps. 37: 3-6, 27-28 Matt 10: 16-23	All who are hungry or homeless. Those who try to bring relief. Harrow Foodbank.
10th	Gen 49: 29-end, 50: 15-25 Ps. 105: 1-7 Matt 10: 24-33	Barry, our Parish Priest; Ajay, Associate Vicar and their families.

Sun 11th	Eph 1: 3-14 Ps. 24 Mark 6: 14-29	Those who are bereaved. Sustain them and embrace them with your love.
12th	Ex 1: 8-14,22 Ps. 24 Matt 10: 34-11: 1	We pray for the honouring of human rights, and for the relief of the oppressed.
13th	Ex 2: 1-15 Ps. 69: 1-2, 31-end Matt 11: 20-24	All who are housebound or in Nursing Homes. Pray for their protection now and in the future.
14th	Ex 3: 1-6, 9-12 Ps. 103: 1-7 Matt 11: 25-27	Teachers and all students who are looking forward to a holiday in the UK and abroad.
15th	Ex 3: 13-20 Ps. 105: 1-2, 23 Matt 11: 28-end	Pray for good attendance at the summer music recitals at St John's.
16th	Ex 11: 10-12: 14 Ps. 116: 10-end Matt 12: 1-8	Peace among the nations, that God may rid the world of violence.
17th	Ex 12: 37-42 Ps. 136: 1-4, 10-15 Matt 12: 14-21	School children who may need tuition to catch up on lost lessons this year. Summer camps and groups.
Sun 18th	Eph 2: 11-end Ps. 89: 20-37 Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end	People of the parish. All our worship today. Give thanks for Christian friends.
19th	Ex 14: 5-18 Ps. 136: 1-4, 10-15 Matt 12: 38-42	All those who work in shops, offices and banks around our church. We give thanks that they continue to serve the community.
20th	Ex 14: 21-15: 1 Ps. 105: 37-44 Matt 12: 46-end	All our young people and those who guide them.
21st	Ex 16: 1-5, 9-15 Ps. 78: 17-31 Matt 13: 1-9	Victims of abuse and violence, intolerance, and prejudice.
22nd	2 Cor 5: 14-17 Ps. 42: 1-10 John 20: 1-2, 11-18	Mary Magdalene. All those who welcome strangers this week.

23rd	Ex 20: 1-17 Ps. 19: 7-11 Matt 13: 18-23	Those newly ordained to the priesthood. Lord, be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength.
24th	Ex 24: 3-8 Ps. 50: 1-6, 14-15 Matt 13: 24-30	The Queen, Charles, Prince of Wales, and all members of the royal family.
Sun 25th	Eph 3: 14-end Ps. 14 John 6: 1-21	People of the parish. Pray that we may bring Christ's peace to all those we meet this coming week. Pray for Seafarers and mission chaplains.
26th	Acts 11: 27-12: 2 Ps. 126 Matt 20: 20-28	James the Apostle, the first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom. All who suffer for their Christian faith.
27th	Ex 33: 7-11, 34: 5-9, 28 Ps. 103: 8-12 Matt 13: 36-43	All who are unemployed or have been made redundant in the last few months. May they find suitable and fulfilling employment.
28th	Ex 34: 29-end Ps. 99 Matt 13: 44-46	Fr David Byrne, Assistant priest and hospital chaplain for his pastoral work at NPH.
29th	Ex 40: 16-21, 34-end Ps. 84: 1-6 Matt 13: 47-53	The work of St Luke's Hospice; all patients and medical staff, Macmillan nurses.
30th	Lev 23: 1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37 Ps. 81: 1-8 Matt 13: 54-end	Our Prime Minister, Cabinet and members of Parliament. All who work in the criminal justice system.
31st	Lev 25: 1, 8-17 Ps. 67 Matt 14: 1-12	All members of the armed Forces, at home and abroad. Lord, support them in times of conflict and in their rest and training keep them safe.