

# The Messenger



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

**JUNE 2021**

Hello Friends

It is good to be writing to you again, though time seems to be flying by. We are now entering a new season in the calendar as we look back on Eastertide, Ascension and Pentecost. We now enter what is called "Ordinary Time", though we know that is anything but ordinary at the moment.

First of all, I want to thank all those who have made the transition to live church on Sunday mornings. It is encouraging for me to see you. We are now regularly getting more than 30 people each Sunday. We also get over 20 on Zoom each week, and I know we have a YouTube community too, so St John's is coping with the Covid season very well. My continued thanks to Gary Morris and Godfrey Mott for the way in which they enabled our online worship for more than a year now.

## Updates

We now have ownership and keys for the Victoria Hall, a separate charity but one with very close links to the church over many years. The new manager is in place and we are now commencing the task of fitting out and getting

ready. User groups will start in September, but there is a lot of work to be done before then. This has absorbed a great deal of my time and that of the wardens, so my thanks to them.

## Church

As far as the church is concerned, the PCC has been engaged in making plans to gradually revert back to normal, or as near as we can make it. For now, until Parliament reports on social distancing rules in early June (at the earliest), we have no guidance at all as to when we can recommence sung worship or even something as simple as sharing tea and coffee together. However we are making plans. Bearing in mind we do not yet know what will happen on June 21, it looks likely that the current 9:00 service in church will remain in place for June, July and August, and the Zoom service will remain at 10:30 for now.

We are investigating the possibility of live streaming the service, and may adjust the service timings as we enrich the 9:00 am service when we can. I will do all I can to keep you informed as we go, and I thank you for your patience.

## Concerts.

We are now planning a summer concert series in collaboration with Neil Crossland and Steve Law (whom some of you will know) and we can now see the possibility of restarting the fortnightly church concerts in the autumn. If anyone is interested in helping to put these concerts on, please do get in touch with Simon Patrick.

## Opening Church

At the moment we have one group using the church on Tuesdays (Harrow Mencap) but no other access to the church apart from the Sunday service. If anyone is interested in helping re-open the church for private prayer (what we used to call "Church Watch") then I would be very glad to hear from you. Ideally, we need pairs, and we would usually aim to open the church for two hours on any given day. If we can restart this then St John's would be able to offer a simple ministry of quiet, prayer and candle lighting once again. It may be something we can envisage doing once the June 21st date comes along.

Things will start to change rapidly this year once we know that the nationwide reopen is permanent and secure. Clearly there are circumstances where we might retrench or go backwards, and we must be on our guard. In Harrow in particular there is an issue with low vaccine rates and some concern on the new variant (B.1.617.2), so we must be vigilant. You may consider attending the monthly update Zoom webinars run by Harrow Council when you can.

Therefore, we give thanks to God for his provision and protection, and entrust ourselves to his love and care. Please do look after yourselves.

My thoughts and prayers,

**Barry  
Vicar  
June 2021**

**Pray this month for.....**

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	1 Peter 1: 10-16 Ps. 112 Mark 12: 13-17	Pray for the new Mayor of London that he may strive to make our wonderful city a better place.
2nd	1 Peter 1: 18-end Ps. 25: 1-8 Mark 12: 18-27	<b>All local schools</b> , especially St Jerome's, Alpha Prep School and Quainton Hall School.
3rd	1 Peter 2: 2-5, 9-12 Ps. 128 Mark 12: 28-34	Myanmar's front-line medical workers who are torn between their patients and working for a military government.
4th	1 Peter 4: 7-13 Ps. 146 Mark 12: 35-37	The <b>Victoria Hall</b> as it prepares to open for bookings and for the Hall Manager, Ophelia, as she starts her new job.
5th	Jude 17, 20-end Ps. 103: 1, 8-13 Mark 12: 38-end	All staff and patients at <b>St Luke's Hospice, Kenton</b> and the <b>Macmillan nurses</b> who do so much in controlling the symptoms of cancer.
<b>Sun 6th</b>	2 Cor 4: 13-5:1 Ps. 138 Mark 3: 20-end	<b>International Service.</b> People of the parish. Pray that we may treat all people with courtesy and Christian love.
7th	2 Cor 1: 1-7 Ps. 34: 1-8 Matt 5: 1-12	A blessing on <b>our local community</b> , that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship.
8th	2 Cor 1: 18-22 Ps. 119: 129-136 Matt 5: 13-16	On <b>World Oceans Day</b> , pray that politicians, scientists, and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.
9th	2 Cor 3: 4-11 Ps. 78: 1-4 Matt 5: 17-19	<b>People on the fringes of our own communities</b> ; those isolated by poverty or mental illness.
10th	2 Cor 3: 15-4: 1,3-6 Ps. 78: 36-40 Matt 5: 20-26	The work of <b>Aid Agencies</b> around the world. Christian Aid and The Salvation Army who serve in the heart of communities.

11th	Acts 11: 19-end Ps. 112 John 15: 12-17	<b>St Barnabas, Apostle.</b> Pray that, like Barnabas, we will be a source of strength and encouragement to those we meet in our daily lives.
12th	2 Cor 5: 14-end Ps. 103: 1-12 Matt 5: 33-37	Police, prison and probation officers. Priests who minister to them and run Alpha/Bible courses to those in prison.
<b>Sun 13th</b>	2 Cor 5: 6-10, 14-17 Ps. 20 Mark 4: 26-34	People of the parish. God's blessing on all our worship today, in church and on-line.
14th	2 Cor 6: 1-10 Ps. 98 Matt 5: 38-42	<b>Harrow Mencap</b> who continue to serve the learning disabled. The clients of our <b>Welcome Centre</b> who haven't been able to meet since the pandemic began.
15th	2 Cor 8: 1-9 Ps. 146 Matt 5: 43-end	Lord, You have given me time, talents, resources and relationships. Help me to make the best possible use of all these things.
16th	2 Cor 9: 6-11 Ps. 112 Matt 6: 1-6, 16-18	<b>Those who are guiding our nation</b> at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions.
17th	2 Cor 11: 1-11 Ps. 111 Matt 6: 7-15	Writers, journalists, all involved in the media and arts.
18th	2 Cor 11: 18, 21b-30 Ps. 34: 1-6 Matt 6: 19-23	The <b>healing of the nations</b> in a world bruised and torn apart by war, oppression and injustice. Let your justice and peace shape the nations of Yemen, Israel, Palestine and the lives of all people.
19th	2 Cor 12: 1-10 Ps. 89: 20-33 Matt 6: 24-end	Give thanks for our spiritual heritage. Pray for the work and witness of <b>all Harrow churches.</b>

<b>Sun 20th</b>	2 Cor 6: 1-13 Ps 133 Mark 4: 35-41	On <b>Father's Day</b> , bless all the fathers in the world who have accepted the responsibilities of being a parent. Guide them to be outstanding role models to their children.
21st	Gen. 12: 1-9 Ps. 33: 12-end Matt 7: 1-5	All members of the Armed Services; Service Chaplains.
22nd	Gen 13: 2, 5-end Ps. 15 Matt 7: 6, 12-14	All who work in industry, commerce and finance. Local banks and offices in Harrow Town Centre.
23rd	Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18 Ps. 105: 1-9 Matt 7: 15-20	<b>Pray for our clergy team:</b> our Parish Priest, Barry, Associate Vicar, Ajay and Fr David, Hon. Assistant Priest.
24th	Malachi 4 Ps. 80, 82 Matt 11: 2-19	<b>John the Baptist</b> who was sent from God and came as a witness to testify to the light.
25th	Gen 17: 1, 9-10, 15-22 Ps. 128 Matt 8: 1-4	<b>Her Majesty the Queen</b> and the Royal family. Give her grace as the symbol of loyalty and unity for all our different peoples.
26th	Gen 18: 1-15 Luke 1: 46b-55 Matt 8: 5-17	Justin, our Archbishop; Sarah, Bishop of London; Peter, our Area Bishop.
<b>Sun 27th</b>	Acts 13: 14b-26 Ps. 85: 7-end Luke 1: 57-66, 80	<b>Patronal Festival.</b> Give thanks for the message and example of our Patron Saint.
28th	Gen 18: 16-end Ps. 103: 6-17 Matt 8: 18-22	<b>Other faiths</b> in our community. For <b>St John's</b> itself, that we continue to serve and thrive.
29th	Acts 12: 1-11 Ps. 125 Matt 16: 13-19	<b>St Peter and St Paul.</b> Keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship.
30th	Gen 21: 5, 8-20 Ps. 34: 1-12 Matt 8: 28-end	All teachers of the faith. Students, staff and governors of colleges and universities.