



The **Messenger**

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

OCTOBER 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings. I write as we officially transition into Autumn; new seasons bring new beginnings.

“My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; when shall I come before the presence of God?”

Services

In church we have now reverted to our former Sung Eucharist format at 10:00 am on a Sunday. This means we are back with a full complement of hymns and sung liturgy. We are still serving communion in one kind only for the foreseeable future and encourage both distancing and mask wearing for everyone's safety. But we are now sharing hospitality after the service, and the experience of church now feels much more like the fellowship-sharing that it should be. If you have not attended already, you would be very welcome.

We also live-stream the service (my thanks to Godfrey, Gary, John and others for their hard work). This means that those still preferring to worship from home can do so, using the Zoom link that we used to use for the 10:30 service. If you'd like to join us in this way, please use the code shown at the end of this newsletter. Contact me if you are not sure.

Open Church

The church is now open more than at any time in the last 18 months. We continue to welcome Harrow Mencap into Church on Tuesdays for their lunch club, and a crafts group on a Wednesday. More encouraging is the opening of the church on a Wednesday lunchtime for prayer and quiet time, and I extend my thanks to Kim Parry and his team of volunteers that has made this progress possible. With more volunteers we are seeking to extend this to Mondays and Fridays.

Welcome Centre

One of our key community ministries pre-lockdown was the Welcome Centre. This was a collaborative venture with Our Lady and St Thomas RC church, which extended a welcome to those who wanted to come into church to talk. We provided a listening ear and occasionally sign posting services to other agencies.

Lockdown meant the suspension of this but we are trying to reopen from the end of October. We are contacting former volunteers and gathering as many of the old team as we can. We are hoping to provide two 3-hour sessions on Wednesday and Saturday just as soon as we can.

Concerts

Our autumn concert series has already restarted thanks to the hard work of Simon Patrick and others. The dates for October are the 7th and 21st, commencing at 12:30.

A call to action

For all these activities we need help. I am issuing the call to all those who want to help St John's reach out to the community.

- Can you volunteer to help open the church Monday and Friday lunchtimes
- Would you like to join the Welcome Centre team on a Wednesday or Saturday?
- Would you like to help out at the concerts?

I am also interested in adding people to our Sunday rotas for reading, intercessions, and other duties. If you used to help or have never been on a rota but keen to get involved, then please do contact me.

Victoria Hall

I am delighted to say that the new Victoria Hall is now completed and ready for use. We had a very successful open day on 25th September and interest is high. If you have an interest in using the Hall, please contact the Centre Manager on 07483 324077 and she will be happy to speak to you.

So, I hope you can see that, little by little, the church is gradually being restored. In the rest of 2021, we will make further progress, but please be patient with us – it is much easier to close down an operation down than to restart it, and our resources have been somewhat depleted in the last 18 months.

But God has been good and will continue to uphold us as we proclaim the gospel into Greenhill.

Kind Regards

Rev. Barry Hingston
Vicar, St John the Baptist

Email : barry@stjohnsharrow.org

Zoom for Sunday service:
Meeting ID: 849 944 6696
Password: 698806

Pray this month for.....

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	Deut 31: 7-13 Ps. 79: 1-9 Luke 10: 13-16	Pray for those who are fleeing for their lives. Help us now to open our arms in welcome and reach out our hands in support.
2nd	Joshua 22: 1-6 Ps. 69: 33-37 Luke 10: 17-24	Pray for God's blessing on Black History Month; give thanks for historic Black Leaders and for the outstanding contributions made by people who travelled to the UK to build new lives.
Sun 3rd	Heb 1: 1-4;2: 5-12 Ps. 26 Mark 10: 2-16	Harvest Thanksgiving. Pray for our worship today. Give thanks to all farmers and food distributors.
4th	Jonah 1: 1-2: 2-10 Ps. 69: 1-6 Luke 10: 25-37	Restless with grief and fear, may the abandoned turn to You: in every hour of trial.
5th	Jonah 3 Ps. 130 Luke 10: 38-end	Pray that the desperate may find new hope, and lives torn apart be restored. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who fled persecution at His birth and at His last triumphed over death.
6th	Jonah 4 Ps. 86: 1-9 Luke 11: 1-4	The ministry of all Harrow churches; pray for good and fruitful relations.
7th	Mal. 3: 13-4: 2a Ps. 1 Luke 11: 5-13	We remember those who are imprisoned for their faith and ask that they would join with the Apostle Paul to see that even though they remain captive, their chains have furthered the gospel, not frustrated it.
8th	Joel 1: 13-15, 2: 1-2 Ps. 9: 1-7 Luke 11: 15-26	Give thanks and praise for the beauty of creation, and we pray that You would open our eyes to see all the beauty around us.
9th	Joel 3: 12-end Ps. 97: 1, 8-end Luke 11: 27-28	All public transport workers. All involved in local government.

Sun 10th	Heb 4: 12-end Ps. 22: 1-15 Mark 10: 17-31	The poor and needy of our world and those who bring relief.
11th	Romans 1: 1-7 Ps. 98 Luke 11: 29-32	Our National Health Service coping in difficult times.
12th	Romans 1: 16-25 Ps. 19: 1-4 Luke 11: 37-41	Pray for Justin, our Archbishop and Sarah, Bishop of London. Those who encourage us in prayer.
13th	Romans 2: 1-11 Ps. 62: 1-8 Luke 11: 42-46	Christian writers and journalists; those involved in Media or the Arts.
14th	Romans 3: 21-30 Ps. 130 Luke 11: 47-end	Police, Prison, Probation Officers and Community Payback. We thank those who minister to them. Pray for the work of local Street Pastors.
15th	Romans 4: 1-8 Ps. 32 Luke 12: 1-7	A thankful heart and mind especially at difficult times.
16th	Romans 4: 13, 16-18 Ps. 105: 6-10, 41-44 Luke 12: 8-12	We pray particularly for peace in all countries of the world, where violence, war and terrorism are taking place. For the people of Afghanistan.
Sun 17th	Heb. 5: 1-10 Ps. 104: 1-10, 26, 35c Mark 10: 35-45	For family members, Sunday School teachers, Church Leaders, friends and colleagues who have encouraged us to follow in the Christian way.
18th	2 Tim 4: 5-17 Ps. 147: 1-7 Luke 10: 1-9	St Luke the Evangelist. Give thanks for St Luke's Gospel. Pray for the work of St Luke's Hospice.
19th	Rom. 5: 12, 15, 17-end Ps. 40: 7-12 Luke 12: 35-38	All those who translated the Gospels into many different languages.
20th	Rom. 6: 12-18 Ps. 124 Luke 12: 39-48	All who still join our virtual services. Pray for all the elderly, lonely and housebound people in our parish.

21st	Rom. 6: 19-end Ps. 1 Luke 12: 49-53	Govern the hearts and minds of those in authority.
22nd	Rom. 7: 18-end Ps. 119: 33-40 Luke 12: 54-end	Pray for peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts.
23rd	Rom. 8: 1-11 Ps. 24: 1-6 Luke 13: 1-9	Pray for those whose lives are affected by storms and flooding: strengthen them in their hour of need.
Sun 24th	Heb. 7: 23-end Ps. 34: 1-8, 19-end Mark 10: 46-end	Pray for a responsible and cheerful giving to church finances.
25th	Rom. 8: 12-17 Ps. 68: 1-6, 19 Luke 13: 10-17	All staff and pupils of Harrow Schools especially Alpha Prep School and St Jerome's as they start their half term holiday.
26th	Rom. 8: 18-25 Ps. 126 Luke 13: 18-21	All who come into our church today; pray that God may bless their visit.
27th	Rom. 8: 26-30 Ps. 13 Luke 13: 22-30	Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family.
28th	Eph. 2: 19-end Ps. 119: 89-96 John 15: 17-end	SS Simon and Jude, Apostles. Pray for those who preach and teach the Christian faith.
29th	Rom. 9: 1-5 Ps. 147: 13-end Luke 14: 1-6	Pray for all who keep our church clean, tidy and welcoming. Our Church Wardens and Music Leaders.
30th	Rom. 11: 1-2, 11-12, 25-29 Ps. 94: 14-19 Luke 14: 1, 7-11	Pray for those who have lost their homes; grant them perseverance and courage to face the future and be to them a firm foundation on which to build their lives.
Sun 31st	Rev. 21: 1-6a Ps. 24: 1-6 John 11: 32-44	All Parent and Toddler groups and their leaders and helpers.