

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST GREENHILL  
THE MESSENGER – AUGUST 2021**

Dear St John's,

I hope you all are well. I am writing this newsletter to reinforce the material I emailed to the church mail list and announced on the Sunday prior to July 25th.

You will be aware that the law changed radically on Monday July 19th and that many of the legal restrictions placed on worship are now removed or relaxed. This development has come with a plea from the Government, Church of England, and community leaders to exercise caution in the way we go forward. We have seen a sharp rise in infections, followed by a surprising drop, but we still don't know the impact of the relaxations on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The case rate per 100,000 in Harrow has gone from 31 on June 4th, to 158 on July 12th, to 432 on July 23rd, and then down to 393 on July 27th. That volatility requires continued care, even if the link between cases and severe outcomes has been weakened.

This note is what we will be doing in the short term, in accordance with Church of England guidance and with churches locally. It may not be as fast as some would like, it may be too fast for some, but hopefully we can handle that tension between us: -

- (i) The service times and pattern will stay the same until September 19th when we will revert to one service at 10:00. There will be no change until then.
- (ii) The Welcome Desk is retained with hand gel, masks, and service sheets.

- (iii) The paper data collection process has now ceased.
- (iii) We encourage and request the continued use of face coverings in church, and the signage is amended to say that.
- (iv) Social distancing has been retained in the church, but the church capacity now has increased from 50 to 70, sufficient to accommodate a normal Sunday congregation, but with some social distancing encouraged.
- (v) Initially, we will not be singing inside, and I am reviewing this with our organist and PCC, and also, with churches locally. It will come.
- (vi) The Eucharist will continue to be served in one kind for the foreseeable future, until case rates locally are significantly reduced.
- (vii) We will continue to clean the church after the service in preparation for the Chinese Church that worship after us.
- (viii) The current one way system (in through the North Door and out through the chapel door is retained for now.
- (ix) We are now looking at safe ways of introducing hospitality using disposable compostable cups, and a self-serve process using milk portions etc. This will be an experiment and will guide us to our return to normal worship on September 19th.
- (x) The children's area is now open with drawing books, paper, and pens. We will not yet reintroduce the toys and games as they are something of a challenge to clean regularly.
- (xi) The church layout has been slightly altered (the side chapel tidied up and the North Aisle opened for full use) but the kneelers will stay in storage for the time being. They will be restored in time.
- (xii) Wednesday communion will stay online, at least for now, as we have a good attendance there and

it helps those seeking to continue worshipping from home.

- (xiii) We are pressing ahead with a streaming system for the church that will enable us to live stream the services from September 19<sup>th</sup>. This is in hand.

In addition, please adhere to the following guidance:

- If you think you may have Covid 19 symptoms, please do not come to church, and get yourself tested.
- If you have been "pinged", or telephoned to self-isolate, or fear you may have good reason to self-isolate, please do not come to church.
- Make use of the testing services available - lateral flow tests are freely available from any chemist.

This plan is a developing one and we will change things "in flight". The target date of September 19th has the benefit of two months of observation, so if things aren't going well nationally or locally, we will know about it and can adjust.

I hope that is clear. I have cross referenced these changes with St Mary's and we are aligned. As I say, it is not a static situation, and we are on a trajectory to something much better. Obviously, I am happy to hear views and concerns and will attempt to address them.

With all my love and prayers,

**Rev. Barry Hingston  
Vicar, St John the Baptist**

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

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
<b>Sun 1st</b>	<b>Eph 4: 1-16</b> <b>Ps. 51: 1-13</b> <b>John 6: 24-35</b>	<b>People of the parish.</b> Brad Chu and the London Chinese Alliance Church.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Numbers 11: 4-15 Ps. 81: 11-end Matt 14: 13-21	All the volunteers who have made it possible to reopen the church for worship.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Numbers 12: 1-13 Ps. 51: 1-8 Matt 14: 22-end	All who work in medical and healing professions. Hospices and Macmillan nurses.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Numbers 13: 1-2, 25-14: 1, 26-35 Ps. 106: 14-24 Matt 15: 21-28	Show us how to love others as You have loved us. Teach us Your compassion, so that we may be Your hands and feet to those in need.
5 <sup>th</sup>	Numbers 20: 1-13 Ps. 95: 1, 8-end Matt 16: 13-23	All who have been made redundant recently and their families.
6 <sup>th</sup>	2 Peter 1: 16-19 Ps. 97 Luke 9: 28-36	<b>The Transfiguration of Our Lord.</b> Pray for faith to perceive Christ's glory.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 6: 4-13 Ps. 18: 1-2, 48-end Matt 17: 14-20	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.
<b>Sun 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Eph 4: 25-5: 2 Ps. 130 John 6: 35, 41-51	People of the parish and all who come into our church today. Pray for those who are anxious or distressed.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 10: 12-end Ps. 147: 13-end Matt 17: 22-end	Missions to Seafarers - The work of this invaluable group of 1.5 million seafarers – men and women – who work all year round to keep our economy afloat.
10 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 31: 1-8 Ps. 107: 1-3, 42-end Matt 18: 1-5, 10, 12-14	Pray for the ministry of accredited Lay Workers. Bless them and the ministry they undertake to spread the Gospel.

11 <sup>th</sup>	Deut 34: Ps. 66: 14-end	Pray for Barry, our parish priest, Fr David Byrne and Rev. Ajay More.
12 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua 3: 7-11, 13-17 Ps. 114 Matt 18: 21-19: 1	The work and witness of Cathedrals during the summer holidays.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua 24: 1-13 Ps. 136: 1-3, 16-22 Matt 19: 3-12	Justin our Archbishop and Peter our Area Bishop as he prepares for retirement. Sarah, Bishop of London.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua 24: 14-29 Ps. 16: 1, 5-end Matt 19: 13-15	Pray for peace in our world and those who mediate and bring relief.
<b>Sun 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Eph 5: 15-20</b> <b>Ps. 34: 9-14</b> <b>John 6: 51-58</b>	Pray for those suffering the hurts of the past; heal their memories, comfort them.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Gal 4: 4-7 Ps. 45: 10-end Luke 1: 46-55	<b>The Blessed Virgin Mary.</b> Give thanks for Mary's obedience to God. Pray that you may be open to His will for you.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Judges 6: 11-24 Ps. 85: 8-end Matt 19: 23-end	Transforming the poverty of our nature by the riches of God's grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known His heavenly glory.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Judges 9: 6-15 Ps. 21: 1-6 Matt 20: 1-16	Pray for the welfare and protection of all young people.
19 <sup>th</sup>	Judges 11: 29-end Ps. 40: 4-11 Matt 22: 1-14	Strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of God's presence to bind together and to heal.
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth 1: 1, 3-6, 14-16, 22 Ps. 146 Matt 22: 34-40	The Salvation Army and for their work in the heart of communities.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Ruth 2: 1-3, 8-11, 4: 13-17 Matt 23: 1-12	Red Tribe, our Masai community in Kenya.
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Eph 6: 10-20</b> <b>Ps. 84</b> <b>John 6: 56-69</b>	Street Pastors, neighbourhood watch, police, prison and probation officers and all who

		keep our streets safe.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1 Thess 1: 1-5, 8-end Ps. 149: 1-5 Matt 23: 13-22	Pray for those whose lives are affected by storms and flooding: strengthen them in their hour of need.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1 Cor 4: 9-15 Ps. 145: 1-7 Luke 22: 24-30	<b>Bartholomew the Apostle.</b> All who preach and teach the Christian faith.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1 Thess 2: 9-13 Ps. 126 Matt 23: 27-32	Lord, we pray we may be as honest as we can with ourselves, with others and with You, that we may always be sincere in our relationships and seek to live by the truth.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1 Thess 3: 7-end Ps. 90: 13-end Matt 24: 42-end	The poor and needy who rely on donations from Harrow Foodbank. Bless the staff and volunteers who run this invaluable service.
27 <sup>th</sup>	1 Thess 4: 1-8 Ps. 97 Matt 25: 1-13	Bible Study projects and prayer groups who may still be meeting virtually.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1 Thess 4: 9-12 Ps. 98: 1-2, 8-end	Those who have recently joined our church family.
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>James 1: 17-end</b> <b>Ps. 45: 1-2, 6-9</b> <b>Mark 7: 1-8, 14, 15, 21-23</b>	Bless all our friends at Manor Lodge and for all who receive home communion there.
30 <sup>th</sup>	1 Thess 4: 13-end Ps. 96 Luke 4: 16-30	Pray for all staff at Alpha Preparatory School, Quainton Hall School, Harrow School and Westminster University.
31 <sup>st</sup>	1 Thess 5: 1-6, 9-11 Ps. 27: 1-8 Luke 4: 31-37	Our young children and their helpers and teachers as they prepare for a new term. St Jerome's, Norbury and Elmgrove Primary Schools.