



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

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

JULY 2020

Dear Friends,

I am using this Messenger to update you on current news such as it is. The PCC met online on 17th June to assess the current situation in the light of the guidance available. No government announcement had been made at that time, but we have since heard that churches are permitted to reopen for worship from July 4th.

We originally decided not to open for private prayer and we continue with this policy, due to our location and the need to rely on older people or vulnerable volunteers to monitor the church and sanitise the building. With no lunch clubs or concerts operating, we would be entirely dependent on our own volunteer base. There is concern about transmission by people not showing symptoms and the risk to volunteers or those they are shielding.

We discussed the possibility that reopening would be allowed from July 5th, which is now confirmed. This was felt to be still too early to be safe in our context. As such we provisionally agreed the following: -

(i) To target **July 26th** for starting public worship again, if permitted, sustainably and safely. Preparation work would start immediately, and this date would allow the infection risk to diminish further. This now turns out to be close to the end

of “shielding” (August 1st) which eases our worries about the vulnerable.

(ii) That, bearing in mind the likely restrictions still in place, we will operate a short service of the word at 9:00 am, and continue to run the online service as now (currently 10:00 am).

(iii) The service would be approximately 30 minutes long and would operate according to the constraints expected to be in place namely

- The stipulated social distancing will be in place (just reduced to 1m).
- Communion *may* not be offered at this time (but kept under review).
- We will not have singing though some played music may be offered.
- We will not offer refreshments.
- The lavatory may not be available due to risk of infection (but kept under review).
- Opportunity for social interaction will therefore be limited.

The service will be like the midweek 10:30 service in feel, but with the possibility of played music and greater level of lay leadership and participation.

This is all subject to identifying the correct level of volunteer resources to make it happen, and sensing that we continue with our online provision for those who cannot attend.

We will review this in early September in the light of emerging government and diocesan guidance. At that time, we *may* be able to move to a much more normal service (e.g. with hymns) though the timeline for offering physical communion (certainly in both kinds) is very uncertain.

Please understand this is partly guesswork without future firm Government statements. I also appreciate that it is at best “baby steps” towards

normality. We do feel, however that it is at least achievable, and sustainable.

If you wish to contact me on this, please feel free to call or write and I will happily talk it through in more depth.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Barry Hingston

Meetings on Zoom

We will continue to hold the following get-together calls on Zoom:

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 “Coffee and Compline”: meet and chat, finishing with Night Prayer from various traditions.

Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am: midweek Eucharist (Common Worship).

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am: a broadcast on Zoom of a pre-recorded worship service, all welcome (non-real time YouTube version also)

By computer, smartphone or tablet :
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8499446696?pwd=U2czS3ZqeVExVnBLVitKcGR2bzZrUT09>
Meeting ID: 849 944 6696
Password: 698806

By telephone: Dial any of these local numbers : 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240. (Call costs will depend on your contract.)

If you use the telephone option to join, enter the meeting ID followed by #, then a participant ID which is just # again, and then the password followed by #.

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	Amos 5: 14-15, 21-24 Ps. 50: 7-14 Matt 8: 28-end	Justin, our Archbishop, Sarah, Bishop of London and Peter, our area Bishop.
2nd	Amos 7: 10-end Ps. 19: 7-10 Matt 9: 1-8	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.
4th	Amos 9: 11-end Ps. 85: 8-end Matt 9: 14-17	For all workers in pubs and restaurants who may be re-opening from this day.
5th	Rom. 7: 15-25a Ps. 45:10-end Matt 11: 16-19, 25-end	All who work in the medical and healing professions; district nurses and home-helps.
6th	Hosea 8: 4-7, 11-13 Ps. 103: 8-12 Matt 9: 32-end	The Mayor of Harrow and local MP's.
7th	Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13 Ps. 103: 8-10 Matt 9: 32-end	Clergy of the Central Harrow churches as they prepare to reopen in some form.
8th	Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12 Ps. 115: 3-10 Matt 10: 1-7	We give thanks for human love and friendship and for all that enriches our daily lives.
9th	Hosea 11: 1, 3-4, 8-9 Ps. 105: 1-7 Matt 10: 7-15	All who are hungry or homeless. Those who try to bring relief. Harrow Foodbank.
10th	Hosea 14: 2-end Ps. 80: 1-7 Matt 10: 16-23	Barry, our parish priest; Ajay, Associate Vicar.
11th	Isa 6: 1-8 Ps. 51: 1-7 Matt 10: 24-33	Those who are bereaved. Sustain them and embrace them with your love.
12th	Rom 8: 1-11	We pray for the honouring of

	Ps 119: 115-112 Matt 13: 1-9, 18-23	human rights, and for the relief of the oppressed.
13th	Isa 1: 11-17 Ps. 50: 7-15 Matt 10: 34 11: 1	All who are housebound or in Nursing Homes. Pray for their protection now and in the future.
14th	Isa 7: 1-9 Ps. 48: 1-7 Matt 11: 2—24	Teachers and all students who may miss out on a summer holiday this year. Bring them peace.
15th	Isa 10: 5-7, 13-16 Ps. 94: 5-11 Matt 11: 25-27	Pray that we move forward in racial justice and for generations to not pass on patterns of hatred.
16th	Isa 26: 7-9, 16-19 Ps. 102: 14-21 Matt 11: 28-end	Peace among the nations, that God may rid the world of violence.
17th	Isa 38: 1-6, 21-22, 7-8 Ps. 32: 1-8 Matt 12: 1-8	For school children as they approach summer holidays and possible catch up tuition.
18th	Micah 2: 1-5 Ps. 10: 1-5a, 12 Matt 12: 14-21	People of the parish. All our worship today. Give thanks for Christian friends.
19th	Romans 8_12-25 Ps 139: 1-11 Matt 13: 24-30, 36-43	All those who work in shops, offices and Banks around our church as they try to serve the community in these unprecedented times.
20th	Micah 6: 1-4, 6-8 Ps. 50: 3-7, 14 Matt 12: 38-42	All our young people and those who guide them.
21st	Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20 Ps. 85: 1-7 Matt 12: 46-end	Victims of abuse and violence, intolerance, and prejudice.
22nd	2 Cor 5: 14-17 Ps 42: 1-20 John 20: 1-2, 11-19	Mary Magdalene. All those who welcome strangers this week.

23rd	Jer 2: 1-3, 7-8, 12-13 Ps. 36: 5-10 Matt 13: 10-17	Those newly ordained to the priesthood.
24th	Jer 3: 14-17 Ps. 23 Matt 13: 18-23	The Queen, and members of the royal family.
25th	Acts 11: 27-end, 12: 2 Ps. 126 Matt 20: 20-28	James the Apostle. All who suffer for their Christian faith.
26th	Rom 8: 26-end Ps. 128 Matt 13: 31-33, 44-52	All who work in the criminal justice system.
27th	Jer 13: 1-11 Ps. 82 Matt 13: 31-35	All who are unemployed or have been made redundant in the last few months. May they find suitable and fulfilling employment.
28th	Jer 14: 17-end Ps. 79: 8-end Matt 13: 36-43	Fr David Byrne, Assistant priest and hospital chaplain for his pastoral work at NPH.
29th	Jer 15: 10, 16-end Ps 59: 1-4, 18-end Matt 13: 44-46	The work of St Luke's Hospice; all patients and medical staff, Macmillan nurses.
30th	Jer 18: 1-6 Ps. 146: 1-5 Matt 13: 47-53	For our Prime Minister, Cabinet and members of Parliament.
31st	Jer 26: 1-9 Ps. 69: 4-10 Matt 13: 54-end	For all members of the armed Forces, at home and abroad.