

The Messenger



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

NOVEMBER 2020

Isaiah 41:10 10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Dear Friends,

One of the great challenges of our current circumstances is that none of us are really in control. It is part of your psychological development, our social evolution, that we love to be in control and able to influence things. Right now we all need to learn to develop a sense of trust and accept that our future lies in God's hands. This is not easy, for it means laying down our desire to control and influence and simply allowing God to be God. We need to trust in God's promises to care for us, but also seek the ways in which he is trying to develop us, and grow us in character. This is never easy or welcome but it is the season we are in.

Update

I am pleased to say that life in St John the Baptist goes on. We are in reasonable financial shape this year, thanks to the underwriting of our rent from the Hall flats by the developer. This has partially insulated us from the worst impacts of Covid 19. As we put together our submission to the Diocese for next year (our parish share or Common Fund"), we hope to be able to maintain our current contributions to the wider church. 2021 will, of course, be much more challenging and will have to remain in God's hands, and I encourage all those who rarely give to see whether they can raise their giving, and those

who give in by envelope to change to standing order if they possibly can.

The new Victoria Hall is nearing completion and will be handed over to us sometime before Easter in 2021. The new flats are already nearly complete. We are re-evaluating our priorities on the building work within the church but I am hopeful that the external works will commence next year, giving us more social space, and crucially a set of toilets to add to the one we already have. God is good and has been very faithful to us. We give thanks for cooperative developers who have honoured their promises.

Our worship

Our church service continues to grow, and it is a source of joy to serve communion to people face to face in church as well as online. We do not see our pattern of worship changing in the near term as there is no sign of Government restrictions easing. The 9:00 a.m. Eucharist remains in place, unaffected by London's Tier 2 restrictions. So, the 9:00/10:30 am arrangement will stay in place for the foreseeable future, most likely until the New Year. We do not know what the situation will be like for Christmas so I will make an announcement on that in the next Messenger.

Remembrance Sunday will be celebrated in church with a live stream to enable those at home to watch on the internet (there will be no Zoom call that day). We will commence at 10:15 and observe an act of Remembrance in the usual way at 11:00 am inside the church using the memorials there. Please do come along if you can, or log into the Zoom link at 10:15 am.

Alpha Course

Undeterred by the Covid crisis we are offering all of you the opportunity to explore and develop your faith with the Alpha Course.

Please do sign up and start a new journey of discovery, as we start online (Zoom) on Thursday 12th November at 7:30 - 8:30 pm.

For more details please contact Ajay More, or leave a message on the church phone at 020 8863 3690, email us at office@stjohnsharrow.org.

Yours in Christ

Barry (Vicar)

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 10:30 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 #.

Pray this month for.....

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
Sun 1st	1 John 3: 3 Ps. 34: 1-10 Matt 5: 1-12	All Saints' Day. Give thanks for the example of all the saints; for tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.
2 nd	Phil 2: 1-4 PS. 131 Luke 14: 12-14	All Souls' Day. Those recently bereaved as we remember the faithful departed.
3 rd	Phil 2: 5-11 Ps 22: 22-27 Luke 14: 15-24	The Street Pastors – for the shepherds they are to all they meet, gently guiding and caring for them.
4 th	Phil 2:12-18 Ps 27: 1-5 Luke 14: 25-33	The Church's ministry to the poor—Harrow Foodbank.
5 th	Phil 3: 3-8a Ps 105: 1-7 Luke 15: 1-10	All virtual services and the friendships grown there.
6 th	Phil 3: 17-4: 1 Ps 122 Luke 16: 1-8	Those who are affected by storms and flooding: strengthen them in their hour of need, and grant them courage to face the future.
7 th	Phil 4: 10-19 Ps 112 Luke 16: 9-15	The Mothers' Union worldwide and all women, especially those in oppressed circumstances.
Sun 8th	1 Thess 4: 13-end Ps 70 Matt 25: 1-13	Remembrance Sunday — pray for all those touched by war and conflict. All the men and women in our Armed Forces at home and abroad.
9 th	Titus 1: 1-9 Ps 24: 1-6 Luke 17: 1-6	All our public servants, paid and unpaid; all who make our society function well.
10 th	Titus 2: 1-8, 11-14 Ps 37: 3-5, 30-32 Luke 17: 7-10	All local voluntary groups and those who volunteer in charity shops and hospitals.

11 th	Titus 3: 1-7 Ps 23 Luke 17: 11-19	All who are homeless—pray especially for all Night Shelters as they prepare for winter.
12 th	Philemon 7-20 Ps 146: 4-end Luke 17: 20-25	The clergy of the town centre parishes; for Barry our parish priest.
13 th	2 John 4-9 Ps 119: 1-8 Luke 17: 26-end	We pray for all the leaders of the world; that they may make just decisions and use their power wisely, so that everyone may receive a fair deal.
14 th	3 John 5-8 Ps 112 Luke 18: 1-8	For those who work to maintain and clean our church as a witness for Jesus Christ.
Sun 15th	1Thess 5: 1-11 Ps 90: 1-8 Matt 25: 14-30	We pray that we become good stewards of this precious world and cherish its resources so that our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations.
16 th	Rev 1: 1-4, 2: 1-5 Ps 1 Luke 18: 35-end	Help us to rise above pettiness and focus our lives on serving others.
17 th	Rev 3: 1-6, 14-end Ps 15 Luke 19: 1-10	Our Archbishop Justin, and our Bishops Sarah and Pete. Give them a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love.
18 th	Rev 4 Ps 150 Luke 19: 11-28	Our local shops, shopping centres and those who work there as they continue to serve the community during the Covid-19 crisis.
19 th	Rev 5: 1-10 Ps 149: 1-5 Luke 19: 41-44	Those who are homeless and cold, especially in bitter weather.
20 th	Rev 10: 8-11 Ps 119: 65-72 Luke 19: 45-48	Teachers and academics and those who help us to understand theology.
21 st	Rev 11: 4-12 Ps 144: 1-9 Luke 20: 27-40	David, our Assistant Priest and Ajay, our Associate Vicar.

Sun 22nd	Eph 1: 15-end Ps 95: 1-7 Matt 25: 31-end	Christ the King. Our Queen and her family and for those who govern her.
23 rd	Rev 14: 1-5 Ps 24: 1-6 Luke 21: 1-4	The PCC. The coming season of Advent and all it means to us.
24 th	Rev 14: 14-19 Ps 96 Luke 21: 5-11	Our Churchwardens Cath and Peter and all who volunteer on Sunday to keep our services safe and welcoming.
25 th	Rev 15: 1-4 Ps 98 Luke 21: 12-19	Those wrongly imprisoned or held captive; those trying to secure their release.
26 th	Rev 18: 1-2, 21-23; 19: 1-3,9 Ps 100 Luke 21: 20-28	The media, television and arts, and their contribution to our national life. Pray especially for theatres and concert venues who would normally be preparing for Christmas performances.
27 th	Rev 20: 1-4, 11-21: 2 Ps 84: 1-6 Luke 21: 29-33	Our local schools, Elmgrove, Norbury, Harrow High, Quainton Hall, Alpha Prep and especially St Jerome's. Father God, we give you thanks for our education system, all teachers and all who work in education.
28 th	Rev 22: 1-7 Ps 95: 1-7 Luke 21: 34-36	All those who translated the Gospels into many different languages.
Sun 29th	1 Cor 1: 3-9 Ps 80: 1-8, 18-20 Mark 13: 24-end	People of the parish of Greenhill, that they might find peace, and God.
30 th	Rom 10: 12-18 Ps 19: 1-6 Matt 4: 18-22	St Andrew, the Apostle. The Seafarers Mission. All who work in the fishing industry especially in Brixham, Devon, Barry's hometown.