

The Messenger



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

OCTOBER 2020

Romans 8:38: *“Now, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing we are seeing a wave of worrying news. At times like this we need to remember that we are the people of God and we live under his care and love. It has been so encouraging to see people grow spiritually in this time, finding new strength, and exercising their gifts in support of the church.

A huge thank you to all who have made church continuity possible in the past 6 months - PCC, Wardens, Deputy Wardens, Treasurer, as well as those tending the gardens and volunteering to do things in our worship. Thanks to those who simply turn up and help us maintain our community, both face to face and on-line; just being there is an encouragement to others. And a big thank you to those of you who have been looking out for each other. St John's is so much more than a building - we are a community.

Update

Our new Sunday rhythm is now 9:00 am in church and 10:30 am online. We currently see around 25 people on Sunday morning in church and 35 people

online. This amounts to about 50 different people, as some people come to both.

We've decided to continue this pattern of worship until further notice and reviewing it in October so we can plan for November and Christmas. Moving back to one service looks unlikely in the short term, but we will look into how we can extend our use of streaming.

New things

Harvest: We will celebrate harvest on **Sunday 4th October**, to coincide with our resumption of the Eucharist (see below). This will be a simple ceremony with no special offering, simply designed to offer our prayers of thanksgiving to God for all He has given us.

The Eucharist: From Sunday October 4th, our 9:00 am service will be a Eucharist service, offered “in one kind” and administered in a Covid secure way using a socially distanced queue, not using the altar rail and obeying some simple precautions. From that date we plan to have the toilet open subject to a cleanliness procedure which users will need to adhere to.

APCM: On Sunday 25th October we will have our APCM meeting, immediately after the church service. Everyone is welcome. It will not be a long meeting, but we have to reappoint the Wardens and PCC, as well as a few other items of business.

Finances and Giving: Thank you to those who faithfully give on a regular basis. Though our financial position remains strong and resilient, you will not be surprised to hear that our finances have taken a hit this year, with fewer people turning up to church. Some of our costs have fallen too, but most of our regular bills remain the same. Therefore, can I ask of you to review your giving if you can, to resume your donations if they have been interrupted and to consider switching to standing orders away from envelopes, minimising our cash handling is

extremely helpful to us on hygiene and avoiding the bank queues. If you want to know how to do this just drop me a line.

To conclude, St John's has faced the Covid-19 crisis with great spirit and continues to function as a close, caring community. Whatever the next six months brings, I know that we will continue to do so.

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
1st	Job 19: 21-27a Ps. 27: 13-16 Luke 10: 1-12	Harrow Mencap who continue to serve the learning disabled.
2nd	Job 38: 1, 12-21; 40: 3-5 Ps. 139: 6-11 Luke 10: 13-16	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.
3rd	Job 42: 1-3, 6, 12-end Ps. 119: 169-end Luke 10: 17-24	Restless with grief and fear, may the abandoned turn to you: in every hour of trial.
Sun 4th	Phil 3: 4b-14 Ps 19 Matt 21: 33-end	Harvest Thanksgiving. Pray for our Celtic worship today. Give thanks to all farmers and food distributors.
5th	Gal 1: 6-12 Ps 111: 1-6 Luke 1-: 25-37	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	Gal 1: 13-end Ps 139: 1-9 Luke 10: 38-end	The ministry of all Harrow churches; pray for good and fruitful relations.
7th	Gal 2: 1-2, 7-14 Ps 117 Luke 11: 1-4	Bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule.
8th	Gal 3: 1-5 Canticle: Benedictus Luke 11: 5-13	All those who translated the Gospels into many different languages.
9th	Gal 3: 7-14 Ps 111: 4-end Luke 11: 15-26	All public transport workers. All involved in local government.

10 th	Gal 3: 22-end Ps 105: 1-7 Luke 11: 27-28	The poor and needy of our world and those who bring relief.
Sun 11 th	Phil 4: 1-9 Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23 Matt 22: 1-14	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.
12 th	Gal 4: 21-24, 26-27, 31; 5: 1 Ps 113 Luke 11: 29-32	Pray for Justin, our Archbishop and Sarah and Peter, our Bishops. Those who encourage us in prayer.
13 th	Gal 5: 1-6 Psalm 119: 41-48 Luke 11: 37-41	Christian writers and journalists; those involved in Media or the Arts. Rev Steve Morris & Rev Barry Hingston for their book project.
14 th	Gal 5: 18-end Ps 1 Luke 11: 42-46	Police, Prison, Probation Officers and Community Payback. We thank those who minister to them. Pray for the work of local Street Pastors.
15 th	Eph 1: 1-10 Ps 98: 1-4 Luke 11: 47-end	A thankful heart and mind especially at difficult times.
16 th	Eph 1: 11-14 Ps 33: 1-6, 12 Luke 12: 1-7	The Parent and Toddler group and their leaders and helpers.
17 th	Eph 1: 15-end Ps 8 Luke 12: 8-12	Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family.
Sun 18 th	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.
19 th	Eph 2: 1-10 Ps 100 Luke 12: 13-21	God of love, turn our hearts to your ways; and give us peace.
20 th	Eph 2: 12-end Ps 85: 7-end Luke 12: 35-38	Govern the hearts and minds of those in authority.

21 st	Eph 3: 2-12 Ps 98 Luke 12: 39-48	All who still join our virtual services. Pray for all the elderly, lonely and housebound people on our parish.
22 nd	Eph 3: 14-end Ps 33: 1-6 Luke 12: 49-53	Pray for peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts.
23 rd	Eph 4: 1-6 Ps 24: 1-6 Luke 12: 54-end	Prayers for those whose lives are affected by storms and flooding: strengthen them in their hour of need.
24 th	Eph 4: 7-16 Ps 122 Luke 13: 1-9	Hear the cries of all who are in trouble or distress.
Sun 25 th	1 Thess 2: 1-8 Ps 90: 1-6 13-end Matt 22: 34-end	All who come into our church today; pray that God may bless their visit.
26 th	Eph 4: 32-5.8 Ps 1 Luke 13: 10-17	All staff and pupils of St Jerome's as they start their half term holiday.
27 th	Eph 5: 21-end Ps 128 Luke 13: 18-21	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.
28 th	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.
29 th	Eph 6: 10-20 Ps 144: 1-2, 9-11 Luke 13: 31-end	Pray for all who keep our church clean, tidy and welcoming. Our Church Wardens and Music Leaders.
30 th	Phil 1: 1-11 Ps 111 Luke 14: 1-6	Our National Health Service coping in difficult times.
31 st	Phil 1: 18-26 Ps 42: 1-7 Luke 14: 1, 7-11	Pray for a responsible and cheerful giving to church finances.