



The **Messenger**

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

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

Psalms 139:7-10

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.”

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all remaining well. This is a brief update of where we are as a church as we enter the season of summer holidays.

Church Reopening

I am pleased to say that the church reopened for private worship on Sunday July 26th with 25 worshippers which was very encouraging. For the next few weeks into mid-September we will be offering a Service of the Word at 9:00 am, whilst continuing with our online service. This has now moved to 10:30 a.m. as some people like to do both. We are not opening during the week yet, but will continue to keep things under review as we proceed with Sundays.

We have made strenuous efforts to make the church Covid -19 secure. This obviously changes the manner in which we worship, but God is wherever we choose to connect with Him, and the manner in which we do so makes no difference.

All we need is a sincere heart and desire to worship, and it is done.

There is hand gel at the door, and we are recording people's names and numbers for the purposes of Track and Trace. This data is held securely and disposed of after 21 days. We have been asked to encourage the use of face coverings, and a small supply is available at the door should you forget to bring our own.

Inside we have a one-way system and socially distanced seating, which makes sure that worship is safe. We have no singing, refreshments or eucharist at the moment, so associated risks with those things are removed,

The service is approximately 30 minutes long comprising some musical reflection, readings and a short sermon and prayers. If public transport is off putting, and you are able to drive, it is possible for some to park for free until 10:00 a.m. in the service road opposite the church near the gym. The church toilets are not in use yet, and we will see if we can change that in due course.

By mid-September we hope to offer a eucharist, an online service, and a return to hosting the London Chinese Church alliance who normally share our building, all subject to experience, and guidelines.

Finances

St John's relies on the generosity of its congregation. However, lockdown has obviously affected our income because although many donate by standing order, a number of you use donation envelopes. Because donating by envelope has not been possible, our income has dropped over the closure period. So, if you can switch to standing order and donate automatically through your bank, you would be doing us an

enormous blessing. On the other hand, if you have been putting your financial support in envelopes, it would be great if you can let us have them, so that we can bank the money.

As ever, huge thanks for your generous support in keeping the gospel alive in the centre of Harrow. God go with you and your families.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Barry Hingston

Our Weekly Worship

Sunday Morning at 9:00 a.m: A service of the Word in church

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

Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am on Zoom: 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 |
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| 1st | Jer 26: 11-16, 24 Ps. 69: 14-20 Matt 14: 1-12 | All the volunteers who have made it possible to reopen the church for worship. |
| 2nd | Gen 32:22-31 Ps. 17: 1-7, 16 Matt 14: 13-21 | People of the parish. Rev. Augustine Fung and the London Chinese Alliance Church. |
| 3rd | Jer 28 Ps 119: 89-96 Matt 14: 13-21 | All who work in medical and healing professions. Hospices and Macmillan nurses. |
| 4th | Jer 30: 1-2, 12-15, 18-22 Ps 102: 16-21 Matt 14: 22-end | Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. |
| 5th | Jer 31: 1-7 Ps. 121 Matt 15: 21-28 | All who have been made redundant recently and their families. |
| 6th | Dan 7: 9-10, 13-14 Ps. 97 Luke 9: 28-36 | The Transfiguration of Our Lord. Pray for faith to perceive Christ's glory. |
| 7th | Nahum 2: 1-, 3, 3: 1-3, 6-7 Ps. 137: 1-6 Matt 16: 24-28 | 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. |
| 8th | Hab 1: 12-24 Ps. 9: 7-11 Matt 17: 14-20 | Those who work at sea; Missions to Seafarers. |
| 9th | Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28 Ps. 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b Matt 14: 22-33 | All who come into our church today. Pray for those who are anxious or distressed. |
| 10th | Ezek 1: 2-5, 24-end Ps. 148: 1-4, 12-13 Matt 17: 22-end | Pray for the ministry of accredited Lay Workers. |
| 11th | Ezek 2: 8, 3: 4 Ps. 119: 65-72 Matt 18: 1-5, 10, 12-14 | Pray for Barry, our parish priest, Fr David Byrne and Rev. Ajay More. |

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| 12th | Ezek 9:1-7,10: 18-22 Ps. 113 Matt 18: 15-20 | The work and witness of Cathedrals during the summer holidays. |
| 13th | Ezek 12: 1-12 Ps. 78: 58-64 Matt 18: 21-19:1 | Justin our Archbishop and Peter our Area Bishop. |
| 14th | Ezek 16: 1-15, 60-end Ps. 118: 14-18 Matt 19: 3-12 | Pray for peace in our world and those who mediate and bring relief. |
| 15th | Isa 61: 10-end Ps 45: 10-end Luke 1: 46-55 | The Blessed Virgin Mary. Give thanks for Mary's obedience to God. Pray that you may be open to His will for you. |
| 16th | Gen 45: 1-15 Ps. 133 Matt 15: 21-28 | Pray for those suffering the hurts of the past; heal their memories, comfort them. |
| 17th | Ezek 24: 15-24 Ps. 78: 1-8 Matt 19: 16-22 | 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. |
| 18th | Ezek 28: 1-10 Ps. 107: 1-3, 40, 43 Matt 19: 23-end | Pray for the welfare and protection of all young people. |
| 19th | Ezek 34: 1-11 Ps 23 Matt 20: 1-16 | 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. |
| 20th | Ezek 36: 23-28 Ps. 51: 7-12 Matt 22: 1-14 | Govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to His just and gentle rule. |
| 21st | Ezek 37: 1-14 Ps. 107: 1-8 Matt 22: 34-40 | Red Tribe, our Masai community in Kenya. |
| 22nd | Ezek 43: 1-7 Ps. 85: 7-end Matt 23: 1-12 | Street Pastors, neighbourhood watch, police, prison and probation officers and all who |

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| | | keep our streets safe. |
| 23rd | Ex 1: 8-2: 10 Ps 124 Matt 16: 13-20 | Pray for those whose lives are affected by storms and flooding: strengthen them in their hour of need, grant them perseverance and courage to face the future and be to them a firm foundation on which to build their lives. |
| 24th | Isa 43: 8-13 Ps. 145: 1-7 Luke 22: 24-30 | Bartholomew the Apostle. All who preach and teach the Christian faith. |
| 25th | 2 Thess 2: 1-3a, 14-end Ps 98 Matt 23: 23-26 | Give thanks for God's good gifts to you. |
| 26th | 2 Thess 3: 6-10, 16-end Ps. 128 Matt 23: 27-32 | The poor and needy who rely on donations from Harrow Foodbank. Bless the staff and volunteers who run this invaluable service. |
| 27th | 1 Cor 1: 1-9 Ps 145: 1-7 Matt 24: 42-end | Bible Study projects and prayer groups who may still be meeting virtually. |
| 28th | 1 Cor 1: 17-25 Ps. 33: 6-12 Matt 25: 1-13 | Those who have recently joined our church family. |
| 29th | 1 Cor 1: 26-end Ps. 33: 12-15, 20-end Matt 25: 14-30 | Bless all our friends at Manor Lodge who have not received home communion since February. |
| 30th | Ex 3: 1-15 Ps. 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b Matt 16: 21-end | Pray for all staff at Alpha Preparatory School, Quanton Hall School, Harrow School as they plan how to bring the children back to school safely. |
| 31st | 1 Cor 2: 1-5 Ps. 33: 12-21 Luke 4: 16-30 | Our young children and their helpers and teachers as they prepare for a new term. St Jerome's School. All parish priests, especially those newly appointed. |