

SUNDAYS AT ST JOHN'S

10am Parish Communion

with Sunday School followed by refreshments
(All-Age Service on the 2nd Sunday of the month)

Live streaming service (Zoom Meeting ID: 898 5923 2700)

Gospel Choir lead our worship on the first Sunday of the month

6pm Evening Prayer

A reflective evening service from the
Book of Common Prayer

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesdays 10:30am

Thursday 8am-8:30am

On-line Holy Communion

Prayer and Pastries

Messy Church

Sunday 27th September and 25th October

3:30pm-5:30pm



Join us for fun activities, worship and food. For all ages but in particular for children and parents. Donations are welcome

Community Open Church – Fridays 12pm-2pm

If you are passing, please pop in for quiet reflection and prayer

Thursday Lunch Time Music

24th Sept: Odinn Baldvinsson – *flute* & Mayumi Iida – *piano*

8th Oct: The Amabile Trio

22nd Oct: Dominic John – *piano*

All are welcome. Our concerts begin at 12:30pm. Tea/Coffee and sandwiches available from 11:45am. Admittance is free.

Retiring collecting at the end.

www.stjohnsharrow.org

Prayers and Reflections

Creator God

Thank you for the beautiful world you have given us.
Thank you for the crisp autumn air, the colourful unveiling of your glory, the harvest of many fruit and vegetables, and your provision to us throughout the year. As we reflect on Your goodness today, thank You for the seasons that remind us that You make all things new. Thank you for this time of year that brings coolness, abundance, and bright colours.

Amen

Scripture verse for
this edition of
The Messenger

Please read....

The Widow's Olive Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7):

A destitute widow faces losing her sons to creditors.

"Your servant has nothing there, except a jar of olive oil".

God miraculously multiplies a small jar of oil into abundant amounts, allowing her to sell it and pay her debts.

The message is that God can do a lot with the little we have to offer.

Mission Statement

Our purpose is to worship God and grow disciples of Jesus who share God's love in the world.

www.stjohnsharrow.org

St John the Baptist, Greenhill, Harrow

THE MESSENGER

September/October 2026

What's happening at St John's:

The Social Squad planned events:

Saturday 12th September: Trip to St Paul's Cathedral.

Saturday 3rd Oct 11am-12 noon: Litter picking in the local area with the Harrow Litter Pickers

Sunday 11th Oct: Harvest Thanksgiving Bring and Share Lunch (tbc)

Good News Story ...

It seems like a lifetime since our Gospel Choir at St John's was formed in 1998 and started meeting in June of that year. It soon became a blessing to our congregation as our voices filled the church with uplifting songs which inspired joyful worship while maintaining the reverence and devotion that are at the heart of our faith.

Over the years we have been accompanied by several musicians, mainly pianists, including Simon, our current organist, and our faithful, long-term leader, Dominica, who joined us in 2007. However, when she planned to retire away from Harrow, we had a few anxious moments and conversations regarding the continuation of our Gospel Choir mission at St John's. We took it to God in prayer. During one of our conversations, our current violinist, Atsushi, casually said. "My daughter, Momo, plays the piano."

In my native Caribbean culture, when we unexpectedly get good news, we would say... "God doesn't come, but he sends". We give thanks to God for sending Momo to us; so, our Gospel Choir Mission continues.

Doris Duesbury

THE MESSENGER ARTICLE

BY REV'D WENDY WALL

VICAR OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENHILL, HARROW



SEPT/OCT 2026

As we prepare for the autumn harvest after our hot, dry summer, we are perhaps reminded that nothing is guaranteed. We are already being warned that the harvest in the UK will not be as plentiful as usual due to the lack of rain and the extreme temperatures. For the first time ever, Shane and I have been trying to grow tomatoes, which have been diagnosed with the wonderfully sounding 'blossom rot', caused by stressed roots and inconsistent access to water: a casualty of the drought conditions.

We need to be careful about our consumption of water as well, as the water levels in reservoirs have fallen and with the ongoing hosepipe bans in place. The challenges of the summer weather can remind us of how dependent we are on God for everything we need.

There is a wonderful story in 2 Kings 4 about a widow at the time of Elisha who cried out to him for help. Her husband had revered the Lord, but she was in debt and was about to lose her sons to slavery to pay back the debt.

Elisha replied to her, 'How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?' 'Your servant has nothing there at all,' she said, 'except a small jar of oil.'

Elisha tells the woman to go and ask all her neighbours for empty jars, as many as she can find, then to go inside her house with her sons, and pour the oil into all the jars. She collected as many jars as she could find, and she and her sons started pouring out the oil. When all the jars were full, the oil stopped flowing. Elisha then told her to sell the oil, pay off her debts, and she and her sons could live on what was left over.

We are reminded through this story that **the Lord can do A LOT with just a little**. We see this again in the feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6.30-44). Jesus asks His disciples, 'How many loaves do you have? Go and see.' It's not what they don't have, but what they do have that is important. They come back with five loaves and two fish, and from this small amount of food, over 5000 people were fed, with 12 basketfuls of food left over.

The Lord can do a lot with a little

In both these stories, God intervenes at a time of desperation. The widow mentions the oil to show how little she has, but for God this is an offering He can use. The disciples are anxious about how on earth they are going to feed so many people with so little.

One little boy offers his packed lunch in trust that it will be helpful. It's such a small offering, but the size of the offering isn't the problem. Our weakness and helplessness is often what God uses to help us.

Both the widow and the disciples are obedient to the instructions they are given by Elisha and by Jesus. Both are called to trust God and to participate in God's plans.

These stories illustrate the reality of God's character. In His goodness His will is to give to us abundantly, far more than we need. In both these stories, the Lord meets the immediate need and responds with overflowing generosity; He doesn't hold back, and He can do the same for us.

At other times, He gives us just what we need: He gave the Israelites just the right amount of manna (their daily food in the wilderness) to eat every day for 40 years, so they would learn to depend on Him, that they would know that 'man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord' Deuteronomy 8:3b. Trusting God's promises is surer than trusting in our possessions or material wealth.

God isn't just interested in our material needs, but more importantly, our spiritual needs. However far off we are, however desperate our situation, our living and generous God provides for us and sustains us.

We must remember, though, that God is not a generous vending machine. He doesn't always give us what we want, whenever we want it. He is far wiser than we are and holds an eternal perspective. We may not always get what we think we need, but we will be given what God knows we need, if we trust Him.

God is greater than the limitations we put on Him. In every circumstance we find ourselves, however weak we are, however limited our resources, let us remember that God is more than capable of surpassing our expectations, of rising to (and above) any occasion.

The little we have is a perfect offering for a loving God. The more we have, the more tempted we may be to think we don't need Him. As it is, not only do we know we need Him, but we are reminded that every word that comes from His mouth is a safer bet to stake our lives on than anything this world can offer.

Rev'd Wendy Wall