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
On-line Holy Communion

Thursday 8am-8:30am
Prayer and Pastries

Messy Church
Sunday 29th November
(No session in December)
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
5th Nov: Yuki Negishi and Clara Yang (*piano duet*)
19th Nov: Jelena Makarova (piano)
3rd Dec: John MacDomnic (trumpet) and Adrian Boynton (organ)
17th Dec: Christmas Music with Adrienne Walters (soprano)
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

Holy God, in Mary's child you enter the world. He shows us the way in which we must walk. We journey with him as our guide and companion. We journey with all who have journeyed before us. We discover that you are the journey's beginning and its end. Bless our journey, we pray.

Amen

A prayer from Nicholas Papadopulos, Dean of Salisbury.
"Twelve Joys of Christmas"

Scripture verse for this edition of The Messenger

Please read….
Psalm 139, which reminds us how precious we are to God.

We are called to remember what God has done for each of us: this is how trust grows and relationships deepen.

God says, 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!' (Isaiah 49.15)

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

November/December 2026

What's happening at St John's:

All Souls' Memorial Service: Sunday 8th Nov 3pm
All-Age Communion Celebration with The Rt Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Bishop of Willesden
Sunday 13th December 10am
Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies: Sunday 20th December 6pm
All-Age Nativity Service: Christmas Eve 4pm
Midnight Communion: Christmas Eve 11:30pm
All-Age Communion Service: Christmas Day 10am

Good News Story …

The Organ

Our current organ was installed in 1938, coming from Rothwell's organ works across the road in Bonnersfield Lane (where Rothwell Court preserves the name). A major refurbishment in 1975 involved a few new pipes and a whole new console (the bit where the organist sits). Last year the organ tuner noticed a shortage of wind pressure to the pipes, which he traced to a leak in the main reservoir, out in the organ blower shed. The leak became progressively worse during the next year, while we obtained an estimate from Willis's for the work and the archdeacon's permission to carry it out. Many of the pipes went silent. A completely new reservoir was installed in September and the whole organ was retuned. Meanwhile, for four weeks the services were accompanied on the piano, as they were in 1975. Now we have the organ fully working again, which is a great relief both to me and to Ka Men Yau, who is playing for us as part of her organ studies. I hope you have noticed the difference! ***Simon Patrick***

THE MESSENGER ARTICLE

BY REV'D WENDY WALL
VICAR OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENHILL, HARROW

NOV/DEC 2026

The Call To Remember

"Lest we forget" is often quoted on Remembrance Day, as we remember the soldiers who have given their lives for our freedom. Remembering is a purposeful commitment of respect and gratitude, creating a sense of relationship between us and the brave soldiers most of us have never met. We honour them. This is part of our collective identity and story.

I have two family members with dementia. Remembering has become a precious and increasingly scarce commodity for them. Sometimes we only realise how important something is when we start to lose it. Spending time with family members in recent weeks has made me think about God's call for us to remember and why this is important:

In Deuteronomy 8:2 the Lord says: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness for 40 years to test and humble you.'
In the New Testament Luke writes (22:19): 'Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' Jesus wanted to be remembered by His death.

Why are we called to remember?

Remembering is part of knowing who we are; our history, our own self-awareness, who we are in relation to other people, and in relation to our context: where we live and work. Without these points of reference we forget our purpose, our place in the world and our relationships.

Remembering is important for relationships. Through our experiences we build an understanding of others, who they are, and who we are in relation to them. The Old Testament reminds us of who God is. We learn about His character in the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that He would always be their God, would grow them into a nation with their own identity and status, and through them the whole world would be blessed.

In the Old Testament we see God working to keeps this promise, and that time after time, however much He is rejected and ignored, He still offers His people chance after chance to return to Him, to be forgiven, and to become the people of God He is calling them to be. God never forgets His promises, and we see them working out throughout history.

Remembering is good for us.

We are called to remember what God has done for each of us: this is how trust grows and relationships deepen. We have the privilege of knowing God through the Bible, through Jesus, through His Spirit, and through our own experiences. By remembering all God has done for us, we learn our own self-worth; that we are His people, who He loves with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31.3). We are each individually and wonderfully made (Psalm 139.14); each precious in God's sight.

Not only do we remember individually what God has done, but through communion we remember collectively what Jesus accomplished on the cross. This is what He came to do, and the thing he most wanted to be remembered for: He gives His disciples instructions for his memorial service.

Through Jesus's death God keeps His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as to Adam, Eve and King David. Jesus establishes the new covenant of the forgiveness of sins for all who come to Him. By remembering together, we create a collective identity of who God is, and we support each other as witnesses and trustees of the good news about Jesus. We grow together in faith as we remember all God has done for us. We realise that no one is loved more than anyone else: we are all deeply special to God, who would have sent Jesus to die even if you were the only person in the world who needed saving.

There is power in remembering.

God calls us to remember who He is, and through this the roots of our faith grow deeper, drawing water from the deep wells of understanding, collective history and personal experience. Building trust.

One of my family members with dementia was baptised two years ago. Her memory is fading, but I am comforted that even if she forgets who she is, God will never forget her. He promises: 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!' (Isaiah 49.15)

Even if we forget, we can trust that God will never forget us.