

The Messenger



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

APRIL 2024

Dear Friends,

As you will know by now this is my last Messenger to you and will be circulated on my last Sunday with you, which is Easter Sunday. If one has to have a last Sunday, then I suppose Easter is a wonderful time to choose. It is a season we associate with new life, and eternal hope. It is literally the crux of our faith and belief, and the reason we gather together.

For me, the season is now especially resonant. I now move forward into a new chapter of life which I am looking forward to, and I have just become a grandfather for the first time – baby Erin Olivia was born on March 25th to our middle son Simon and his wife Mairead. So new life indeed on many counts.

St John's also moves into a new phase of its life serving the parish of Greenhill. My reflections on that are quite optimistic. We have tried many things over the past 11 years, and it would be untrue to say they have all worked out. But here we are 11 years on, still with healthy finances, new audio-visual systems, an excellent heating system, and a good Sunday congregation.

My thoughts and memories on St John's? Well, on the one hand, as a centre for promoting the love of Christ, it could not be better situated. On the other hand, that always means dealing with people experiencing stress, difficulty and even despair; that is the nature of a town centre. But that is the message of Christ – new life and new hope are most needed by those whose life is in turmoil and those without hope. So I hope that we will continue to offer that – by excellent music concerts, by extending a welcome to those who want to make community here such as Community Connex, by offering the sacrament, by welcoming families into Messy Church, and by collaborating with other churches in central Harrow in ventures such as the Welcome Centre.

We have an excellent opportunity to reach families even more through collaboration with the local school, St Jerome's. By the time you read this I expect to have welcomed in the whole school once again for an Easter celebration. With the whole school, teachers and parents, I expect to see between 400 and 500 people here on March 27th. My hope is that you develop, extend and deepen that relationship such that it starts to define and characterize the church going forward. I know that soon after my departure the school is leading us in worship on Sunday 12th May.

More “newness” is happening at the back of the church. At long last you can see the commencement of work on our church annex, the future home of our new toilet block, kitchenette and pastoral space. Because we are enhancing our electrical supply as well this also means we can improve and finish our kitchen space in the vestry. Taken together, and with

our much more effective heating system, this is the final fruit of our building development programme and leaves St John's in a far stronger position of offering hospitality to people coming in.

The final “newness” will of course be a new vicar. Whoever he or she may be, they will inherit a parish of great potential, with new partnerships all around – school, hall, charities, council and people. St John the Baptist, Greenhill can make a truly wonderful difference to this corner of Harrow. Your wardens will keep you updated on that process, and all I can say is be patient, and give the matter your prayers and support.

So, I'm happy to wish St John the Baptist, Greenhill a very happy new season. I would like to thank in writing all my wardens from the past 11 years, remembering the late Graham Cunnew with special affection, my two treasurers Clare Cook and Simon Patrick, my invincible Secretary Peter Hawkins, and my Administrator, Tina Last, for her energy, enthusiasm and priceless contribution to my work here. And of course, to all of you, the family of St John's. You are the ultimate “without whom” department, and I trust you will continue to support your new vicar when they arrive.

God bless you richly this Easter and beyond.

Rev Barry Hingston
Vicar

Pray this month for.....

Date	Daily Readings	Daily Prayers
1st	Acts 2: 14, 22-32 Ps. 16: 1-2, 6-end Matt 28: 8-15	Our Church Wardens, Cath and Peter and the PCC as they lead us through the interregnum.
2nd	Acts 2: 36-41 Ps. 33: 4-5, 18-end John 20: 11-18	The safeguarding of our planet so that our children and future generations will benefit from the natural beauty.
3rd	Acts 3: 1-10 Ps. 105: 1-9 Luke 24: 13-35	We pray for any known to us who are in special need of our prayers at this time.
4th	Acts 3: 11-end Ps. 8 Luke 24: 35-48	May every home in this parish be enfolded in your love, brightened by your joy and calmed by your unbroken peace.
5th	Acts 4: 1-12 Ps. 118: 1-4, 22-26 John 21: 1-14	All who are unemployed and families of our Borough who are in need. The Harrow Foodbank.
6th	Acts 4: 13-21 Ps. 118: 1-4, 14-21 Mark 16: 9-15	The local police, the fire and ambulance service, Street Pastors, and all who keep Harrow safe.
Sun 7th	Acts 4: 32-35 Ps. 133 John 20: 19-end	For our children in Primary schools as they grow and develop; for those preparing for SAT's and for their transition to High School.
8th	Isa 7: 10-14 Ps. 40: 5-11 Luke 1: 26-38	The UK Government, may they be a strong force for good in foreign policy.
9th	Acts 4: 32-end Ps. 93 John 3: 7-15	We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes.
10th	Acts 5: 17-26 Ps. 34: 1-8 John 3: 16-21	Our Archbishop Justin, Sarah, Bishop of London and Lusa, our Area Bishop.
11th	Acts 5: 27-33 Ps. 34: 1, 15-end John 3: 31-end	Lord we bring to you our thanks and praise for the beauty of creation, and we pray that you would open our eyes to see all the beauty around us.

12th	Acts 5: 34-42 Ps. 27: 1-5, 16-17 John 6: 1-15	For peace in all countries of the world where violence, war and terrorism are taking place and we pray especially for those who seek to make peace in this divided world.
13th	Acts 6: 1-7 Ps. 33: 1-5, 18-19 John 6: 16-21	All who work in the medical health professions; District Nurses. The Chaplain team at Northwick Park Hospital.
Sun 14th	Acts 3: 12-19 Ps. 4 Luke 24: 36b-48	Pray that we may give a warm welcome to all who join our Sunday Services, in person and on-line.
15th	Acts 6: 8-15 Ps. 119: 17-24 John 6: 22-29	Give your servant King Charles and the Princess of Wales strength and courage as they continue their cancer treatments. Grant them always the assurance of your presence, your power and your love.
16th	Acts 7: 51-8: 1a Ps. 31: 1-5, 16 John 6: 30-35	For our teenagers in our homes, in our communities, in our world who are making their way from childhood to adulthood.
17th	Acts 8: 1b-8 Ps. 66: 1-6 John 6: 35-40	Thank you, Lord, for performing arts, whether it be story-telling on stage, screen or page, dance. Also for painting, sculpting and music. May they bless and bring vibrance to our community.
18th	Acts 8: 26-end Ps. 66: 7-8, 14-end John 6: 44-51	We pray today for your church and for Christians in other lands where they are a minority; let them find strength in knowing you are with them.
19th	Acts 9: 1-20 Ps. 117 John 6: 52-59	All who work in journalism, industry and finance. Pray that they may be truthful.
20th	Acts 9: 31-42 Ps. 116: 10-15 John 6: 60-69	Those who are ill or in need of God's help at this time: We pray for the sick, both at home and in hospital or hospice and of those awaiting consultations and treatments.

Sun 21st	Acts 4: 5-12 Ps. 23 John 10: 11-18	Pray for the world-wide Christian Church in all its diversity, bringing the elements of different cultures into their worship and in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.
22nd	Acts 11: 1-18 Ps. 42: 1-2; 43: 1-4 John 10: 1-10	For all suffering with mental health illnesses; Lord free them from panic and worry.
23rd	Rev 12: 7-12 Ps. 126 John 15: 18-21	St George's Day. Give us the bravery of St George to stand up for the truth and the glory of God that we have seen in the face of Jesus Christ. Pray for our country.
24th	Acts 12: 24-13: 5 Ps. 67 John 12: 44-end	All schools, especially St Jerome's, Quainton Hall and Alpha Prep Schools.
25th	Acts 15: 35-end Ps. 119: 9-16 Mark 13: 5-13	Mark the Evangelist, you became a great Evangelist, preaching the Good News of Christ. May you help us to know Him well so that we may faithfully live our lives as followers of Christ.
26th	Acts 13: 26-33 Ps. 2 John 14: 1-6	Rev Ajay More, our Associate Vicar and his family.
27th	Acts 13: 44-end Ps. 98: 1-5 John 14: 7-14	All people with disabilities, their families and helpers. Harrow Connex clients, workers and volunteers.
Sun 28th	Acts 8: 26-end Ps. 22: 25-end John 15: 1-8	We pray for every member of this congregation and ask that you bless us all this coming week.
29th	Acts 14: 5-18 Ps. 118: 1-3, 14-15 John 14: 21-26	We pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them.
30th	Acts 14: 19-end Ps. 145: 10-end John 14: 27-end	Pray for good relationships between churches and their local MPs and that churches will seek ways in which they can support MPs in serving their communities.