

St John the Evangelist
4th Sunday before Lent

Signpost Weekly
10th February 2019

Dear Friends,

I guess there was always going to be a time when I used this little space to reflect on BREXIT! We shall probably hold, within our congregation, differing views. None of us really know what the next few months and beyond will bring. There is much anxiety for some, possibly excitement for others. Some are worried about future jobs or even their place of residency. But in amongst all of that, no matter what our political standpoint, is our community. I hope we continue to live out our calling to help and support one another and continue to seek to bring the light of Christ into the heart of this town.

Rev Preb Sharon



Taking care of God's gift

This Lent as a diocese we will be thinking in different ways about what it means to care for the world in which we live. Our care for the environment and for all that God has created is an obligation for us as Christians and part of our response to the gospel.

Reference is sometimes made to the Five Marks of Mission and one aspect of mission is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' What we now know about climate change and the impact we humans make on the world we live in, means that it is imperative that we take this responsibility serious. The Earth is our home. It is beautiful beyond words. It is God's gift to us and so we must take care of it! The Psalmist reminds us that: 'The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.' (Psalm 24:1)

President Barack Obama recently said: "For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change ... we must act before it's too late." He was not seeking to be alarmist in saying this, he was reminding us that climate change is already affecting agriculture, water resources, forests, wildlife, and coastal areas and also having a serious detrimental impact on human health.

We do need to be more responsible, more faithful and more diligent in the way we care for God's creation for a number of reasons. Firstly, a clean environment is essential for healthy living. Secondly, as the overall temperature of Earth's atmosphere and oceans increases so too does the frequency of dangerous weather patterns and devastating storms. We are stewards of what God has given us and we have a responsibility for future generations and we cannot deny that the way we live is stoking up problems for our children, grandchildren and all who follow after us. Biodiversity, the variety of plants, animals, and other living things in our world, is important and we know that human activities are having a negative impact on it. Finally, it matters because the way we treat the environment also mirrors the way we treat each other. Mahatma Gandhi the Indian civil rights activist once said: "What we are doing to the forests of the world is a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another."

So, what might it look like to show that we care about the environment? I have found these three simple words helpful as I have thought about this. The three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Those are three words we might think about this Lent.

www.bathandwells.org.uk/2019/01/lent-2019-living-well-in-gods-world/

With warm greetings,

The Right Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

COLLECTS AND READINGS

10th February 4th Sunday before Lent Isaiah 6.1-8(9-end); 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

Collect: Lord of the hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without you we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

17th February 3rd Sunday before Lent Jeremiah 17.5-10; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26

Collect: Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Our Pastoral Prayers



To include somebody on this prayer list please let Shirley in the office know by 8am on Thursday, making sure the person you wish to be included wants their name in print.

Baptisms: We pray for parents, godparents and those preparing to be baptised.

Those in need of our prayers:

Margaret Moyle, Hazel, Betty Montgomery, Betty Player, Christine Marston, Val & George Crawford Maureen & Ian Thompson

For those who have died: We pray for those who have recently died and their loved ones who grieve their loss.

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Dorothy Griffiths

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Pray today for all who work the land and fish the sea

Monday:

For the archdeaconry days in Bath and Frome

Tuesday:

Pray for Rev Sharon as she leads worship in school this afternoon

Wednesday:

For our midweek communion meeting in the hall

Thursday:

On Valentine's Day, pray for all preparing for marriage

Friday:

For our ongoing planning of events for children, families and young people

Saturday:

For family and friends



Deanery Confirmation on Thurs 27th June.

Please speak to Rev Sharon if you are interested in being confirmed this year.

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION

**Volunteers needed to assist with this year's collection on
Friday 22nd February at TESCO
9am till 6pm**

This is a "Churches Together" exercise, but St John's has been rather under represented of late and if at all possible it would be good to redress the balance; so, if you are able to help for an hour, pairing up with a friend, that would be really good.

Please add your name to the list in church with any times you can help.

Alternatively, contact Shirley in the office.

Rev Sharon will then pass on your details to chair of Christian Aid for our area Rev Marion Hance.

Many Thanks

Churchfield breakfast

Volunteers needed to serve a simple breakfast in school.

Could you offer one morning a week, or even just once a month, 8am - 8.40am

(All food provided.... It's only serving!)

To offer your support and help please contact Rev Sharon

sharon.crossman@btopenworld.com

07712 117721

Churches Together table tennis

Neil Olson is hoping to form a **church team of table tennis** players to join the really friendly third division league (all ages!!). We take the gospel to the people in a whole new way! Give Neil a call: 01278 765953 or email: no1@myphone.coop

CHARITY COFFEE MONEY

***Please suggest a charity
on the noticeboard in
church***

**Last chance next week, then we
shall vote**

from 17th - 24th

ELECTORAL ROLL

A full electoral roll revision is now due. Please make sure you have picked up your envelope from the back of church (available from 3rd Feb) - to be returned by 17th March.

200 club subscriptions are now due. Want to know more?... please speak to Ian Chedzey

CALENDAR

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Rev'd Preb Sharon Crossman 789290
Training Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194
Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

FEBRUARY

- Sun 10th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion
- Mon 11th 1.30pm Archdeaconry day, Holy Trinity Frome
- Tues 12th 10am Toddlers in church hall
- Wed 13th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 14th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
- Sun 17th 9am Said Communion 3pm Shorter Communion followed by tea
- Tues 19th Toddlers on Half Term break
- Wed 20th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 21st Little Angels on Half Term break
- Sun 24th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion
****Rev Tonya's last service at 10am West Huntspill – all welcome to attend**

DONATIONS FOR REVEREND TONYA NIXON TO REV'D SHARON OR CHRIS PERRY. HER LEAVING SERVICE IN THE VILLAGES IS AT 10AM IN WEST HUNTPSILL ON SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY. THERE WILL STILL BE A 9.30AM SERVICE HERE THAT DAY, BUT DO PLEASE ATTEND TONYA'S SERVICE IF YOU CAN AND THE REST OF US WILL JOIN YOU LATER!

- Tues 26th 10am Toddlers in church hall
7.30pm PCC meeting in hall
- Wed 27th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 28th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

MARCH

- Fri 1st 6.30pm Communion service in Welsh & English, followed by supper/entertainment
- Sun 3rd 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion
- Tues 5th 10am Toddlers in church hall
- Wed 6th **ASH WEDNESDAY** 9.30am Said Communion with ashes 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place
7pm Village services with ashes (venue tbc)
- Thurs 7th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
7.45pm Lent book group
- Fri 8th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross

To submit an article for the Signpost Weekly please e-mail
office@stjohnshighbridge.org.uk or leave a message on
01278 780633 by 8am on Thursday

Parish office opening hours:

Weds 8am-2pm Thurs 8am-10am Fri 8am -noon

Please ring in advance