

St John the Evangelist

Sunday before Lent

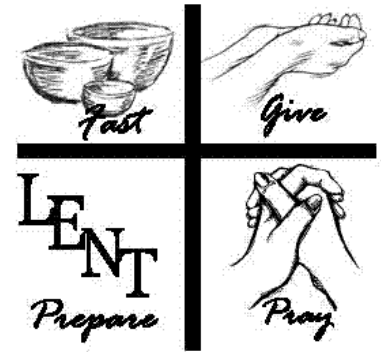
Signpost Weekly

10th March 2019

Dear Friends,

So here we go then, Lent has begun! I was talking to our neighbours on Shrove Tuesday: the 460 children of Churchfield School (!) and asked them to let me know what some of them may decide to give up or take up for Lent. Answers varied from sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks, to x-box, TV, football and phone! I must admit, I really couldn't give up my phone! I shall be following the Pilgrim book – via an APP on my phone!!! In addition, I'm challenging myself to the Archbishops Lent Book - getting up a little earlier each morning to ensure I get my study time in – but then I'm lucky I don't have small children to juggle! We each need to approach Lent in our own way.

Rev Preb Sharon



Persistent prayer

'Great oaks from little acorns grow' is a saying you may have grown up with. I was thinking about it at a recent visit to the Weston hospice. This year it celebrates 30 years of caring for those who have terminal illness. They have some 600 volunteers and 150 staff offering home care, day centre and in-patient care, medical and pastoral. It costs some £4 million pounds a year, only 20 per cent of which comes from the NHS. The rest comes from grants and donations – and its 17 charity shops. It is remarkable what has been accomplished over three decades and to see the incredible care and compassion.

Also remarkable is that this all began through a small prayer group at Christ church; noticing the need of those fearful of death; and having a vision for what could be. In partnership with others of good will, inspiring them to give time, energy and finance, the Weston hospice was born.

I don't know how many of those original 'pray-ers' still remain. Perhaps some even have benefited from the gift of the hospice themselves! I hope they realise whether in this world or the next, what power their prayers have had and the gift of love they have bequeathed. And I hope that people are still praying for the ongoing work of Weston hospice!

We may not always see the results of our prayers in our own life-times. It takes many years for an oak to grow from an acorn after all. My hope is that we remain faithful and persistent in our praying for what God puts on our heart. A bit like Luke's telling of the parable of the persistent widow who doesn't give up on asking the local judge for justice. Jesus poses the follow-up question: 'Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?' He goes on to leave the challenge hanging... 'however, when the Son of Man comes will he find faith on the earth?' Will he find us faithful in persistent prayer I wonder?

The Right Revd Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton

COLLECTS AND READINGS

10th March 1st Sunday of Lent Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

Collect: Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

17th March 2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-end

Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

June Hodge, Michael Millam

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Patricia Heal, Maurice Maynard, Richard Keylock, Ronald Ward

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Ask God for strength to make the most of the next 36 days

Monday:

Pray for the people down your street

Tuesday:

Please pray for Churchfield today, especially the Ethos group meeting this afternoon

Wednesday:

For our regular midweek communion around the table in the hall. Consider coming along

Thursday:

For the first meeting of the vision planning group

Friday:

For the prayers tonight at 5.30pm

Saturday:

For family and friends



Slide Show

This is a follow up slideshow from the last event, put together by John Strickland, a completely new show, with slides never shown before!



AROUND 100 IMAGES OF THE TOWN
FROM THE MID 1850'S TO 1980!

**HIGHBRIDGE'S
PAST REVISITED**

SLIDESHOW AND TALK
PRESENTED BY MR JOHN STRICKLAND

Highbridge.

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2019

7PM

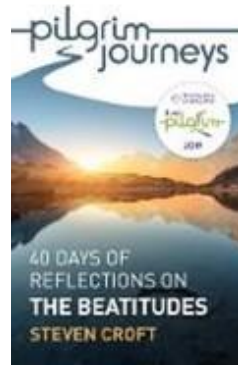
St JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

TA9 3HS

TICKETS
AVAILABLE
FROM ST JOHN'S
CHURCH OFFICE
01278 780633
OFFICE@STJOHNSHIGHBRIDGE.
ORG.UK

TICKETS
£5

Lent App



The app for this is now available from your usual app source. (itunes/googleplay). Just search for Lent Pilgrim.

Rev Sharon has it on her phone and was delighted to find that you just pressed play and listened!

Help needed please....

- Churchfield Breakfast Club. Could you offer one morning a week, or even just once a month, 8am - 8.40am *Contact Rev Sharon*
- Baptism Friends – *Contact Rev Dan*

LITE BITE LUNCH

Where: Scout Hut Coronation Road

When: 16th March 11am - 2:00pm

Various Soups and Bread.

Various Crumbles and Custard.

Hot Dogs for the kids.

Cake Stall and Tombola.

Come and join us and support your local scout group.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Please make sure you have returned your form by **NEXT SUNDAY - 17th March**

The special Lent edition of the weekly sheet is still available. Please pick up your copy, if you haven't already.

CHARITY COFFEE MONEY

Results for donations as follows:

Local: Magic Breakfast at Churchfield school

National: Children's Hospice

International: Christian Aid

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

MARCH

- Sun 10th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion**
- 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
7.30pm Mission Planning Group in vicarage
- Fri 15th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross
- Sat 16th 9.30am – 12.30pm Coffee Morning in aid of Kidney Research UK in church hall
6pm Highbridge Festival choirs in church
- Sun 17th 9am Said Communion 3pm Communion followed by tea**
- Tues 19th 10am Toddlers in church hall
- Wed 20th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 21st 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
- Fri 22nd 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross
- Sun 24th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion**
- Tues 26th 10am Toddlers in church hall
- Wed 27th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
7.00pm 'Highbridge revisited' slideshow in hall – see posters for details & how to get tickets.
- Thurs 28th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
- Fri 29th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross
- Sun 31st NO 8am service 9.30am Family Communion for Mothering Sunday**

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