

St John the Evangelist

Baptism of Christ

Signpost Weekly
13th January 2019

Dear Friends,

Today we think about the baptism of Christ and recall our own baptism. There is an opportunity to get involved in the baptism ministry here at St John's (see overleaf). Baptisms are a great time of celebration and joy. The church is usually full and it is really good to offer a warm and friendly welcome. Do please consider joining the team, ably led by Rev Dan. And this week, think about your baptism as part of a world-wide family, with no borders, where all are equal and all are loved. *Rev Preb Sharon*



The joy of a return

The country of Ghana is making 2019 'The Year of Return' to mark 400 years of the slave trade. Akwase Agyeman who is heading up this year of celebration said this:

'We will celebrate the resilience of the African. Like Joseph in the Bible who was sold to slavery and later connected to his brothers, there was a celebration and in 2019 there shall be a celebration for Africans in Diaspora'

I wonder how we might make 2019 'a year of return'. I don't mean as a return to things past because we mourn a past glory. I'm thinking of the story of Joseph. Joseph was separated from family because his family were jealous of him. His brothers sold him into slavery, out of sight, out of mind. It's when they have need of food that they inadvertently come across Joseph again, this time he holds their fate in his hands. It would have been so easy for Joseph to seek to get his own back on his brothers. In fact he does play a trick on them. However when all is revealed we find many tears shed and reconciliation is achieved.

I wonder how many families in our communities have faced such a fracture in relationships?

Rembrandt's famous painting, 'The Return of the Prodigal' is one of those iconic pictures which draws us into experiencing the depth of feeling the parable speaks of. The embrace of the father to the kneeling son shows us not only the emotion of a family relationship restored but that of God's love for us, his wandering people. Many of us have personal experience of discovering the love of the Father for us, his children. Perhaps this year we could pass on that story to others and help them to find the joy and celebration of a return to the Father who gave everything in order to release them from the slavery of sin.

Let's make this not just 'a year of return' but rather a lifetime!

Rt Rev Ruth Worsley

Bishop of Taunton

COLLECTS AND READINGS

13th January Baptism of Christ Readings: Isaiah 43.1-7; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

Collect: Heavenly Father at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Post Communion: Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

20th January Epiphany 3 Readings: Isaiah 62.1-5; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11

Collect: Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Post Communion: Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Pastoral Prayers



To include somebody on this prayer list please let Shirley in the office know by lunchtime 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.

Alan Walker, Gladys Harwood, Anne Jackson

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Gwen Williams-Scull, Mona Meaker

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Give thanks today for the person next to you: in church, at home, at work, on the sports field, or even on the phone.

Monday:

For Toddlers and Little Angels starting back this week

Tuesday:

For members of the PCC meeting tonight

Wednesday:

For those struggling to find work

Thursday:

For those who are hungry

Friday:

For the deanery of Axbridge as we continue to support each other

Saturday:

For those you spend time with

Would you like to offer some prayer suggestions? Mention it to Rev Sharon

13th January

Baptism Friends



Your Church Needs you!

Baptism welcomes individuals of all ages from our community into God's local family in Highbridge.

Baptisms are often attended by a large proportion of people who would not normally come to church who appreciate a good, friendly welcome and help.

We are seeking people who would be pleased to join our team of friends who represent the church at our services of baptism.

If you could help, or would like to know more, please speak to Rev Dan or Rev Sharon.

CHURCHFIELD BREAKFAST CLUB

Supporting families in Highbridge
We are seeking volunteers who could help serve a simple breakfast in school. This is to ensure children have a good start to the day as part of "Magic breakfast scheme"

Could you offer one morning a week, or even just once a month, 8.10am -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

Sharon will pass your details on to Churchfield School.

The scheme begins on 28th Jan, so do please get in touch soon.

But don't worry if it's after as we shall always be looking for new volunteers.

THANK YOU

Having a clear out of STAMPS, JARS, CARDS?.....

If you haven't thrown out all those Christmas cards yet, please bring in to the office/hall/church, along with any old Birthday/Anniversary/Get Well cards for Pat's ongoing recycling of cards for our funds. She would also be very grateful for any jam jars for her preserve making – also a popular fundraiser.

Pat continues to be happy to receive used postage stamps to pass on to the Spinal Unit in Salisbury.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The week of prayer for Christian Unity is a really good opportunity to get together with our friends from other churches. Two events are coming up this month:

A Quiet Reflective time on Saturday 19th January 9.30am – 1pm (including lunch) at West Huntspill Methodist Church.

The Service For Christian Unity on Sunday 20th January at the Roman Catholic Church in Burnham-on-Sea at 6.30pm. After the service there will be a shared supper so please take a contribution to the refreshments i.e. cold finger food. Coffee/tea and soft drinks will be supplied.

13th January

JANUARY CALENDAR

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Rev'd Preb Sharon Crossman	789290
Associate Priest: Rev'd Tonya Nixon	793950
Training Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch	325194
Churchwarden: Chris Perry	783753

Sun 13th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion

Tues 15th 10am Toddlers in church hall

7.30pm PCC meeting in hall

Wed 16th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 17th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 18th 7.00pm BINGO evening in hall

Sun 20th 9am Said Communion 3pm Shorter Communion followed by tea

4pm Baptism Friends meeting in church

Tues 22nd 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 23rd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 24th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Sun 27th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion

Tues 29th 10am Toddlers in church hall

7.30pm Outlook meeting in vicarage

Wed 30th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 31st 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

FEBRUARY

Sat 2nd 10.30am Christian Aid AGM Burnham Methodist church, followed by soup lunch

2pm Deanery Synod – see poster below

The next Axbridge Deanery Gathering

2.00-4.15pm on Sat 2nd February 2019
Wedmore Village Hall, BS28 4EQ

Communicating our story
with Gillian Buzzard
Head of Diocesan
Communication Team



This meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. It will be especially relevant for administrators, webmasters, magazine editors etc.

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

Parish office opening hours:

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

Please ring in advance