

# St John the Evangelist

Signpost Weekly

Trinity 7 15th July 2018

*The weather has been amazing for Wimbledon this year, and I'm sure many of you have been glued to your TVs. Others have been caught up in the excitement of a certain recent sporting fixture (myself included). This weekend sees the final matches in these significant events. Whatever the sport, athletes dedicate hours to training and preparation. Bishop Ruth talks of ways in which we can develop as Christ's Disciples. Later this year we shall be running further pilgrim courses. I hope you may consider signing up to revive your training! Rev Preb Sharon*



## **Exploring Faith - Bishop Ruth**

As I write this I am home alone whilst my husband, Howard, is sailing around the coast of Britain in the footsteps (or should that be the wake?) of the Celtic Saints. He is immersing himself in how the story of Jesus was brought to Britain all those years ago and taking the opportunity to see how life is lived in those coastal communities today. He is sharing in conversations about what faith in Jesus means for us in 2018.

My travels are rather more local than Howard's but I encounter the same desire to see what it means to be a Christian in Britain today. One of the themes that often emerges is that people want to become more confident in their own faith before they try to share that faith with others.

I am saddened by the suggestion that one legacy of centuries of clericalism is that lay people do not believe themselves to be 'authorised to communicate their faith.' Lay people are already living out their faith in their churches and communities— without that, the church wouldn't exist! But many of us (and this is true for people who are ordained as well as lay people) are not confident and want to know more and understand our faith better. It's wonderful to know that so many of our churches have home groups, Bible studies and other activities to help, but I also want to commend two courses that the diocese offers and which have new sessions beginning in September. They both have exploring in their title – for good reason: even though this exploring is more armchair than coastal adventure.

*Exploring Christianity* is for those wanting to learn more about the Christian faith and the Bible and past attendees have found it has really enriched their understanding of their faith and given them greater confidence. *Exploring Spirituality* is more experiential and focuses on different ways of prayer, allowing people to connect with God using a range of Christian traditions, many of which even those who have been church goers for decades, may be surprised to discover.

It maybe that one of these courses is just what you are looking for, or maybe you can think of someone in your church who you could encourage to set sail. We cannot promise a smooth voyage but in the Bible we have an amazing guidebook and in prayer a solid compass to help you along the way.

**The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton**

You can find out more about the courses Bishop Ruth mentions at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/lay-training](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/lay-training) or call Leonie Jones on 01749 685 106.

## COLLECTS AND READINGS

### 15<sup>th</sup> July Trinity 7

**Readings:** Amos 7.7-15; Ephesians 1.3-14; Mark 6.14-29

**Collect:** Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Post Communion:** Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> July Mary Magdalene

**Readings:** Song of Solomon 3:1-4, 2 Cor 5:14-17, John 20.1-2, 11-18

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection, forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Spirit now and forever.

**Post Communion:** God of life and love, whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles: in your mercy, help us who have been united with him in his Eucharist, to proclaim the good news that he is alive and reigns now and forever.

## PRAYER FOCUS

### **Sunday:**

*Spend a moment to think and pray for all countries represented in current sporting fixtures*

### **Monday:**

*At the beginning of the last week of the school year, pray for all students and teachers*

### **Tuesday:**

*Pray for members of the PCC and the working groups meeting this week*

### **Wednesday:**

*For the preparation and planning of the Apex Family Fun Day*

### **Thursday:**

*For our town council and all who hold public office*

### **Friday:**

*For all who use the foodbank this week*

### **Saturday:**

*For all visitors and tourists to our region, for fun and safety*

## Our Pastoral Prayers



### **Baptisms**

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

### **Marriages**

Couples recently united and those preparing for marriage. And also for those celebrating special anniversaries this month.

### **Those in need of our prayers:**

Margaret Moyle, Hazel, Betty Montgomery, Stevie, Betty Player, Josie Dolan

### **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:**

Gary Weston, Baby Harry Ogden

## **PCC meeting 24<sup>th</sup> July**

*Please do remember to speak to members of the clergy/PCC about your ideas for social activities, special services, fund raising events and projects you would like to see us tackle as a church community.*

## **APEX FAMILY FUN DAY**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August  
10am till 4pm**

This year we shall have a story tent at the family fun day. A small group of volunteers from local churches will be reading stories and having fun with simple craft activities.

If you are taking children or grandchildren along, do come and find us.



## **New Lay Worship Assistants**

Congratulations to four members of our church community who are well on their way to becoming Lay Worship Assistants. Neil Biddiscombe, Liz Davies, Shirley Vickery-Mills and Chris Meddings have completed the training course and were commissioned at last Sunday's Deanery Service. A worship assistant assists in all aspects of preparing and leading worship. In some churches a worship assistant may lead a service of the word, which is simply a service without communion. Although not authorised to preach, a worship assistant may use other resources, such as drama or film clips, to explore a bible passage. Our new worship assistants will help plan and lead the family services. Neil has already taken a turn at planning and leading the monthly Creative Worship. Liz and Shirley already assist in planning the music each quarter but now have new tools they have explored during the course. Liz also plans short acts of worship for some of our youngest members at Little Angels, assisted by Shirley. Chris hopes to assist midweek and during the 8am services. So, we wish them well as they grow into their new ministry.

## **Jars needed**



Jam & Chutney jars required please for our dedicated group of preserve makers! Pass to Pat Burge, or leave in the church / hall.

## **Deanery & Diocesan News**

**DIOCESAN OFFICES TO RELOCATE** - The diocesan offices are to relocate from The Old Deanery on Cathedral Green in Wells to an alternative site on the outskirts of the city. The decision was made 'in principle' last year and formally decided at Bishop's Council recently. You can read more on the diocesan website at the following address:

<http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2018/06/diocese-confirms-plans-to-relocate-offices-from-old-deanery/>

**PREACHING IN WELLS CATHEDRAL** – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 3pm. Preacher: Our very own Rev Preb Sharon on the topic of "patience" (!). St John's is invited to a tour of the Cathedral before the service at about 2pm. Please sign up to let us know if you can make it.

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> 9am Said Communion 3pm Shorter Communion followed by tea**

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Nurture & Worship meeting

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

7.30pm Buildings & Finance meeting

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> School Services in morning

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 4pm Renewal of vows

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion 5pm Creative Worship**

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm PCC meeting in hall

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

1.30pm Apex Play Day meeting

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> 10am Team Service at St John's Noon Baptism**

**3pm Rev Preb Sharon Crossman preaching in Wells cathedral**

Tues 31<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Baptism Preparation

## AUGUST

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> \*\*Said Communion transferred to Thursday this week

10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

10am - 3pm Apex Play Day

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 4pm Renewal of vows

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion 2pm & 3pm Baptisms**

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

**Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion**

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> 12 noon & 2pm Wedding

To submit an article for the Signpost Weekly please e-mail Shirley  
(Parish Administrative Assistant) via [office@stjohnshighbridge.org.uk](mailto:office@stjohnshighbridge.org.uk) or  
leave a message on 01278 780633

**Office opening hours (please ring before visiting)**

Wednesdays: 8am-3pm

Thursdays: 8am-10am

Fridays: 8am-12noon