

Dear Friends,

I need your help. I'm going to be blunt! I have been requesting assistance with various things in recent weeks and I've received no offers from you at all. No response for Dan's plea for more baptism friends, no offers of help from this church to help with the breakfasts, (I'm relying on members of other churches) no offers last week to help with the Christian Aid collection – and to be honest I'm really puzzled. You are a smashing group of people and I love you dearly. So please talk to me and help me to understand your reluctance to get involved. I'd be really grateful, because it won't be long before we shall also need new PCC members, who are a vital part of the leadership of this church and I'm worried by this current lack of response.

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.

With warm greetings, www.bathwells.org.uk/2019/lent-2019-living-well-in-gods-world/
The Right Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

COLLECTS AND READINGS

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.

24th February 2nd Sunday before Lent Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end; Revelation 4; Luke 8.22-25

Collect: Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; 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.

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Michael Gordon, Lilian Dukes

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Pray today for several recent enquiries about baptism

Monday:

For rest and relaxation for teachers and students

Tuesday:

For those who work on the industrial estate

Wednesday:

Pray especially for families who access the foodbank this week

Thursday:

Pray for The Huntspills and Mark as the vacancy approaches

Friday:

For the Christian Aid Collection at Tesco

Saturday:

For family and friends



St David's Day. 1st March

Gwasanaeth ar gyfer Dydd Dewi Sant

Communion Service
(bilingual – dwyieithog)

Friday 1st March
6pm
St John's Church,
Highbridge
TA9 3HS
01278 780633

Croeso i bawb, All welcome

Followed by leek and
potato soup and some
background welsh music



We are very fortunate to have Rev Canon Lynne Perry as part of our congregation. As most of you know, Lynne used to work for the Church in Wales. This year we are using Lynne's linguistic skills and will be conducting a bilingual service on St David's Day, Friday 1st March at 6pm. It is being advertised across the diocese as we hope to attract welsh speakers from way beyond our own parish. The Diocesan Comms Team are also hoping for coverage on local radio.

The service will be about an hour and will be followed by traditional welsh leek and potato soup with a good chunk of rustic bread. I am looking for people prepared to make a batch of soup and /or some bread. We could be catering for quite a few!

Thanks Rev Sharon

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
- Christian Aid Collection Fri 22nd Feb - *Sign the sheet*
- Baptism Friends – *Contact Rev Dan*
- Cooking soup/bread on 1st March – *Contact Rev Sharon*

The special Lent edition of the
weekly sheet is available.
Please pick up your copy.

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**.

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

Don't forget to cast your vote
on the list in church

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 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 HUNTSPILL 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 ****6.00pm** Communion service in Welsh & English, followed by supper/entertainment

Sun 3rd 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion

Tues 5th 10am Toddlers in church hall 3.45pm "Messy Pancakes" in church hall

Wed 6th **ASH WEDNESDAY** 9.30am Said Communion with ashes 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place
7pm Communion and Ashes at West Huntspill

Thurs 7th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

7.45pm Lent book group

Fri 8th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross

Sun 10th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion

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