

Dear Friends This past week I've attended five end of term services in our local schools. It is good to celebrate the academic year and for many of the children to look ahead to new significant steps on their journey. We have lots of contacts with schools, either as parents or grandparents, as teachers, assistants, governors and on a Wednesday morning, simply hearing the children chatter away in the outside areas as we share fellowship inside church. So, all the best for the summer holidays, may they be filled with fun, laughter, rest and refreshment. 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 or call Leonie Jones on 01749 685 106.

COLLECTS AND READINGS

22nd 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.

29th July Trinity 9

Readings: 2 Kings 4.42-end; Ephesians 3.14-end; John 6.1-21

Collect: Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Pastoral Prayers



Baptisms

We pray for parents, godparents and those preparing to be baptised, especially Aoife, Keiron & Persie

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

Michael Warner, Billy Conibeer, Dot Denman, Elizabeth Draper

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Margaret Dicks

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Find a few moments today to pause and celebrate God's creation

Monday:

At the start of the summer holidays pray for all families

Tuesday:

Pray for members of the PCC meeting this week

Wednesday:

For the preparation and planning of the Apex Family Fun Day

Thursday:

For members of our Emergency Services

Friday:

For all who use the foodbank this week

Saturday:

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

PCC meeting 24th 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 1st 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.



Creative Worship



Reverend Dan will be leading the Creative Worship **today at 5pm**, using multi-sensory prayer stations based on the "I am" sayings of Jesus in John's gospel.

Do come along for this non-communion style of worship with an informal atmosphere.

Your plastic bottles

Please start collecting your plastic bottles and bringing them to church (washed please!!). Creative people will be building something amazing out of them over the school holiday ready for the family "Green Eco" Service on 9th September.

Jars needed



Jam & Chutney jars required please for preserve making. 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 29th 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 22nd 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion 5pm Creative Worship

Tues 24th 7.30pm PCC meeting in hall

Wed 25th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

11.30am Funeral of Michael Warner

1.30pm Apex Play Day meeting

Sun 29th 10am Team Service at St John's Noon Baptisms

3pm Rev Preb Sharon Crossman preaching in Wells cathedral

Please come to the Cathedral at 2pm for a tour before the service, especially laid on for the parishioners of Highbridge.

Tues 31st 7.30pm Baptism Preparation

AUGUST

Wed 1st ****Said Communion transferred to Thursday this week**

10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

10am - 3pm Apex Play Day

Thurs 2nd 9.30am Said Communion, followed at 10am with tea/coffee & fellowship

Sat 4th 4pm Renewal of vows

Sun 5th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion 2pm & 3pm Baptisms

Wed 8th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Sun 12th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion

Wed 15th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Sat 18th 12 noon & 2pm Wedding

Sun 19th 9am Said Communion 1.30pm Baptism 3pm Shorter Communion followed by tea

Wed 22nd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Sun 26th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion 3pm Baptism 5pm Creative Worship

**To submit an article for the Signpost Weekly please e-mail Shirley
(Parish Administrative Assistant) via 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