

Dear Friends,

School holidays are drawing to a close and we shall soon begin a new rhythm. You may be about to start your holidays, or you may be looking forward to a rest after looking after children or grandchildren during the school holidays. September will remain a reasonably quiet month in our church life, but do look at the new diary to see what is on the horizon. Can I also thank you for your prayers, many of you will have heard that my mother passed away very peacefully on Saturday 25th August. I am around, but will still need quite a bit of time to be with family at the moment, so please bear with me. Preb Sharon



Letter from Bishop Peter – A Safer Church for all

Two years ago I was asked by the two Archbishops to become the lead bishop for safeguarding for the Church of England. This is a responsibility I undertake alongside my ministry as Bishop of Bath and Wells.

I was therefore much involved with the July's General Synod, which once again had an important focus on safeguarding. During the debates I spoke about the Church's journey of safeguarding; our history (with many shameful episodes), our present (a commitment to improve but a work in progress) and our hopes for the future (ensuring the Church is a safe and welcoming place for all).

I have been asked on more than one occasion whether the role of safeguarding bishop should fall to a bishop who already has responsibility for a diocese and my answer is always an emphatic 'yes'. Since 2016 I may have been the face of the Church of England on safeguarding matters, but providing a safer church for all is the responsibility of every one of us and I believe that my connection with life in the parishes is essential to my national role.

In our diocese we have a first-rate safeguarding team who are supporting the hugely dedicated people in our parishes who are playing their part to ensure our churches are the place of safety they should be. I am deeply grateful for all that they do and it will be an honour this month to preside over a service in Wells Cathedral which recognises the particular contribution and commitment of all our Parish Safeguarding Officers.

I have said we must own the responsibility of safeguarding in every diocese and in every Cathedral, parish and chaplaincy and this is a group of individuals who has taken this responsibility to heart and is acting to deliver it. They deserve our thanks. The service will be at 2.00pm on Saturday, 29 September and everyone is welcome to come to show their support for this important work of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The church has acknowledged and apologised to survivors of church-related abuse and has reiterated its commitment to address and learn from the failings of the past. However, it is in the courage and grace of the survivors I have met along with the commitment of all individuals in the parishes where I find the hope for the future as we strive together to make the Church a safer place for all.

With warm Christian greetings,

The Rt Revd Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells

COLLECTS AND READINGS

2nd September Trinity 14 Readings: Psalm 85:7-13; Mark 7.1-8, 14-15,21-23

Collect: Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

9th September Trinity 15 Readings: Genesis 1:26-31, Matt 6:25-26

Collect: Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion: Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Pastoral Prayers



Baptisms

We pray for parents, godparents and those preparing to be baptised. For Stanley & Anthony, being baptised today; pray too for Anthony and Cherylyn to be confirmed on 14th September.

Marriages

Couples recently united and those preparing for marriage.

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.

Joan Crossman

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Melvyn Hodge

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Give thanks today for family & friends

Monday:

Pray for children and staff as they return to school this week; especially for all those starting a new school, college or university

Tuesday:

Take a moment to pray for yourself today, for wisdom & guidance

Wednesday:

Pray for the volunteers of the Foodbank

Thursday:

For the team preparing for the Family Eco Communion

Friday:

Pray for those who grieve the loss of a loved one

Saturday:

For all those who will Ride and Stride this weekend

Jars needed



Jars suitable for jam & chutney are required for preserve making. Please pass to Pat Burge, or leave in the church / hall.

Ride & Stride

The Diocesan Ride & Stride event will be taking place on Saturday 8th September. Our church and hall will be open throughout the day as a 'pit-stop' & for refreshments for those taking part. Please see Chris Perry if you are able to help out with supervision.

New Church Diary

The Church diary is available from today.....please pick up your copy if you do not receive it by email

HIGHLIGHTS:

7th October – Burnham Half Marathon (look out for our very own Rev Preb Crossman!)



12th October – Harvest Supper



13th October – Men's Breakfast

20th October – Craft Fair



28th October – All Souls service

2nd December – Advent & Christingle service

23rd December – Carol service



FAMILY SERVICE

Last chance this week to bring in your plastic bottles for our family

“Green Eco” service next week!

Join us for our September Family Service where we will be welcoming many of the families baptised in recent weeks.

Our focus for this service will be the environment, linking to the current emphasis on the use and recycling of plastics. Come and discover what we have managed to create with the plastic bottles you have been bringing in so far!



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

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- Sun 2nd** 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion
- Wed 5th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thur 6th 7.45pm Nurture & Worship Group
- Sat 8th We welcome Ride & Stride participants in church today
- Sun 9th** 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion
- Tue 11th 7.30pm Outlook Group
- Wed 12th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Fri 14th 7pm Confirmation – St Andrew's, Burnham
- Sun 16th** 9am Said Communion 3pm Civic service
- Wed 19th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Fri 21st 7.30pm Mass for St Matthew
- Sun 23rd** 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion 11.30am Baptism
- Wed 26th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Sun 30th** 10am Team service at West Huntspill

Looking ahead:

- 14th October Harvest
- 20th October Craft Fair
- 28th October All Souls service

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

Normal Office opening hours (please ring before visiting)

Wednesdays: 8am-3pm

Thursdays: 8am-10am

Fridays: 8am-12noon