

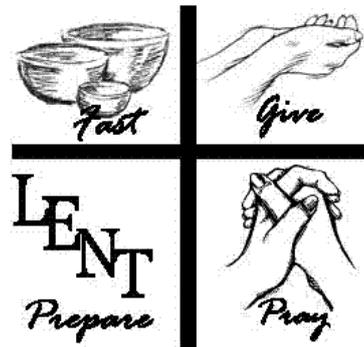
St John the Evangelist Sunday before Lent

Signpost Weekly 3rd March 2019

Dear Friends,

Lent begins on Wednesday! Give up or take up that is the question. As you know, I often take up a physical challenge in Lent, I think I know what that will be, I'll let you know next week! In addition, I aim to read the Pilgrim Lent Book each day and possibly find a few chunks of time to read one of the others we've suggested. I'm not sure it really matters what we do or give up, what matters is that we take this opportunity to find something that will remind us everyday of our walk with God and his love of us.

Rev Preb Sharon



Persistent prayer

'Great oaks from little acorns grow' is a saying you may have grown up with. I was thinking about it at a recent visit to the Weston hospice. This year it celebrates 30 years of caring for those who have terminal illness. They have some 600 volunteers and 150 staff offering home care, day centre and in-patient care, medical and pastoral. It costs some £4 million pounds a year, only 20 per cent of which comes from the NHS. The rest comes from grants and donations – and its 17 charity shops. It is remarkable what has been accomplished over three decades and to see the incredible care and compassion.

Also remarkable is that this all began through a small prayer group at Christ church; noticing the need of those fearful of death; and having a vision for what could be. In partnership with others of good will, inspiring them to give time, energy and finance, the Weston hospice was born.

I don't know how many of those original 'pray-ers' still remain. Perhaps some even have benefited from the gift of the hospice themselves! I hope they realise whether in this world or the next, what power their prayers have had and the gift of love they have bequeathed. And I hope that people are still praying for the ongoing work of Weston hospice!

We may not always see the results of our prayers in our own life-times. It takes many years for an oak to grow from an acorn after all. My hope is that we remain faithful and persistent in our praying for what God puts on our heart. A bit like Luke's telling of the parable of the persistent widow who doesn't give up on asking the local judge for justice. Jesus poses the follow-up question: 'Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?' He goes on to leave the challenge hanging... 'however, when the Son of Man comes will he find faith on the earth?' Will he find us faithful in persistent prayer I wonder?

The Right Revd Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton

COLLECTS AND READINGS

3rd March Sunday before Lent Exodus 34.29-end; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36 (37-43a)

Collect: Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

10th March 1st Sunday of Lent Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

Collect: Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; 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.

Jean Timms, June Hodge, Michael Millam

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Marina Young, Valerie Cundall

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

This week, try praying every day for one person who irritates you.... if you haven't got one – give thanks!

Monday:

For the Town Council meeting this evening

Tuesday:

For the pancake party tonight and all who attend.

Wednesday:

Take time on this Ash Wednesday to stop and consider the next 40 days

Thursday:

For the first inspiration evening for those engaging with a Lent book

Friday:

For the prayers tonight at 5.30pm

Saturday:

For family and friends



Slide Show

This is a follow up slideshow from the last event, put together by John Strickland, a completely new show, with slides never shown before!



AROUND 100 IMAGES OF THE TOWN
FROM THE MID 1850'S TO 1980!

**HIGHBRIDGE'S
PAST REVISITED**

SLIDESHOW AND TALK
PRESENTED BY MR JOHN STRICKLAND

Highbridge.

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2019

7PM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL
TA9 3HS

TICKETS
AVAILABLE
FROM ST JOHN'S
CHURCH OFFICE
01278 780633
OFFICE@STJOHNSHIGHBRIDGE.
ORG.UK

TICKETS
£5

Rainbow Church

This is a place where Christians take time to listen and to grapple with issues of human sexuality. It is a place of welcome and acceptance for all people. The next gathering is quite local to us: St John the Baptist in Bridgwater, TA6 5QS, on Saturday 9th March at 2pm. Rev Christina Beardsley, a member of General Synod, will be speaking about her experiences as a transgender priest.

www.rainbowchurch.o.uk

LITE BITE LUNCH

Where: Scout Hut Coronation Road

When: 16th March 11am - 2:00pm

Various Soups and Bread.

Various Crumbles and Custard.

Hot Dogs for the kids.

Cake Stall and Tombola.

**Come and join us and support
your local scout group.**

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*
- Baptism Friends – *Contact Rev Dan*

ELECTORAL ROLL

Please make sure you have returned your form
by 17th March

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

CHARITY COFFEE MONEY

Results for donations as
follows:

Local: Magic Breakfast at
Churchfield school

National: Children's Hospice

International: Christian Aid

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

MARCH

- Sun 3rd 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion**
- Tues 5th 10am Toddlers in church hall 3.45pm "Pancake Party" 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 (second gathering on 25th April)
- Fri 8th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross
- Sat 9th 2pm Rainbow Church – St John the Baptist Church, Bridgwater. See poster for details.
- Sun 10th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion**
- Tues 12th 10am Toddlers in church hall
- Wed 13th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 14th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
7.30pm Mission Planning Group in vicarage
- Fri 15th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross
- Sat 16th 9.30am – 12.30pm Coffee Morning in aid of Kidney Research UK in church hall
6pm Highbridge Festival choirs in church
- Sun 17th 9am Said Communion 3pm Communion followed by tea**
- Tues 19th 10am Toddlers in church hall
- Wed 20th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 21st 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
- Fri 22nd 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross
- Sun 24th 8am Said Communion 9.30am 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