

Dear Friends,

Today during the family service, we think about our shared responsibility of this amazing planet we inhabit. We shall be reminded of the devastating effect of plastics in our oceans with a very creative sculpture created by our amazing Liz Davies. We are also welcoming several families as little ones (and the not so little!!) receive their baptism candles, as a sign of their journey of faith. And at the end of the week Cherylyn and Anthony are making an important next step in their faith journey as they are confirmed. Do come along to support them on Friday at 7pm at St Andrews if you possibly can.

Rev Preb Sharon Crossman

PS – It's Dan's Birthday today!!!



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

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.

16th September Trinity 16 Readings: Isaiah 50. 4-9a; James 3. 1-12; Mark 8. 27-end

Collect: Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Pastoral Prayers



Baptisms

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

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Michael Pope, Derek Pope, Raymond Cross

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Pray for your place of work, school, or where you spend most of your time

Tuesday:

Pray for all training for ministry, the newly ordained and those in their first post

Wednesday:

Pray for those who need the Foodbank

Thursday:

Pray for the preparation for the Civic Service and all who hold office in our towns

Friday:

For Anthony & Cherylyn to be confirmed today by Bishop Ruth in St Andrews, Burnham-on-Sea

Saturday:

Give thanks today for the various organisations that protect and rescue pets and wild animals

Jars needed



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

Foodbank

I have been informed by organisers of the local Foodbank to ask for the following items which are commonly in need of replenishing their stock if/when you are thinking of donating in future:

UHT milk, tinned fruit, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, sugar.

Please **NO** baked beans – they have plenty!

New Church Diary

The Church diary is now available.....please pick up your copy if you have not done so.

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



Shoebboxes

It may be only September, but I've already heard of those who have finished their Christmas shopping – so I don't feel too bad about bringing up the subject already!

As many of you are aware, we have been supporting the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal for many years and we are hoping to do so again this year. Please see the details in church for what to pack in the boxes – or contact Shirley in the office for details via email.

If you'd rather not go shopping for different items to pack inside a box, why not start knitting toys, scarves or gloves (patterns available) or, if you are handy with a sewing machine, maybe you could make up some cloth bags to pop inside the boxes for the precious goodies to be kept safe and tidy when the shoebox has given up under the strain of its journey. Please remember that hand knitted stuffed toys are no longer permitted and any bought stuffed toys should have a CE label.

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 9th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion**
- Tues 11th 10.00am Toddler group in church hall
7.30pm Outlook Group
- Wed 12th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 13th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
- Fri 14th 7.00pm Confirmation – St Andrew's, Burnham
- Sun 16th 9am Said Communion 3pm Civic service**
- Tues 18th 10.00am Toddler group in church hall
- Wed 19th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 20th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
- Fri 21st 7.30pm Mass for St Matthew
- Sun 23rd 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion 11.30am Baptism**
- Tues 25th 10.00am Toddler group in church hall
- Wed 26th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 27th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
- Sun 30th 10am Team service at West Huntspill**
- Tues 2nd 10.00am Toddler group in church hall
- Wed 3rd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thur 4th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

OCTOBER

- Sun 7th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion**

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-2pm

Thursdays: 8am-10am

Fridays: 8am-12noon