

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST SIGNPOST

APRIL 2018



THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Wed 11th April

7.30pm

Churches Together

Fri 13th April 7pm

'Highbridge in Times Gone By' slideshow

Tues 17th April

6pm Supper

7pm APCM

To submit an article for SIGNPOST, please e-mail Shirley (Parish Administrative Assistant) via office@stjohnshighbridge.org.uk or leave a message on 01278 780633

Happy Easter. It's been a cold March and Easter feels as if it has fallen with winter still in the air. In fact, at the time of writing we are predicted more snow for the Easter weekend. Easter is traditionally the time when we begin to see those tender shoots and gardeners gently nurture their seedlings. There are signs of spring all around us, signs of new life. There is certainly a lot of life in this month's Signpost. From celebrating Highbridge in Times Gone By, a forthcoming wedding weekend in May, when you may like to renew your own wedding vows and before long we shall be filling the church with 18 hours and 57 minutes of music. The APCM is coming up just after Easter, which is a time to celebrate all that we are as a church family. May the blessings of new life rest upon you this Easter.

Rev Preb Sharon

'Highbridge in times gone by'

Have you grown up in Highbridge or are you a newcomer? Either way, you are warmly invited to join us for this informative evening of slides around Highbridge led by John Strickland – to be held in the church hall.

Please contact the Parish office (780633) for tickets - £5 each to include tea/coffee & cake.

MUSIC MARATHON 16th June

Preparations are well underway, but it's not too late to volunteer your musical talents – or encourage others! There is also a timetable to offer help in many other ways throughout the day. Please do sign up, even for an hour!

Hope Baptist Church celebrates 200 years

In April 2017 we began to celebrate our 200th anniversary year at Hope.

As our 200th year draws to a close we are inviting friends from other fellowships to join with us in praising God for his faithfulness and goodness to us. We would like to invite you to a praise service on Saturday 21st April 3.00pm-4pm followed by refreshments. We would love to see you there.

On Sunday 22nd April the Rev Andrew Jackson will be with us. If anyone would like to meet up with Andrew again, you would be very welcome either at the service at 11.00am or afterwards for tea or coffee.

Every blessing. Lyn House

PRAYERS FOR APRIL

Sunday:

Pray for all in the agricultural and fishing industries

Monday:

Pause today just long enough to thank God for the beauty of creation

Tuesday:

Give thanks for our PCC and pray for those who may "Give it a go" this year. Ask if it could be you.

Wednesday:

For those struggling with any kind of addiction

Thursday:

Give thanks for the gift of music and pray for our forthcoming music marathon

Friday:

Today pray for the street where you live, or the place where you work, the school that you attend or the club you belong to

Saturday:

Give thanks for times of leisure

COLLECTS AND READINGS

1st April Easter Sunday

Readings: Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Mark 16.1-8

Collect: God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Post Communion: God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

8th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 4.32-35; 1 John 1.1-2.2; John 20.19-end

Collect: Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Post Communion: Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15th April 3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 3.12-19; 1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36b-48

Collect: Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

22nd April 4th Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 4.5-12; 1 John 3.16-end; John 10.11-18

Collect: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

29th April 5th Sunday of Easter TEAM SERVICE

Collect: Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

From the February / March Registers**Baptisms**

"May they grow in the faith into which they have been baptised"

25th February Isla Davies

Funerals

"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord"

9th March Michael Gordon (87)

16th March Marina Young (83)

23rd March Valerie Cundall (82)

29th March Maurice Maynard (72)

Marriages

"May their love for each other grow and deepen"

10th March Martin Maloney & Kimberly Deenah

EASTER SUNDAY 1st April

6am service on Brean Down

6.30am service on Brean Beach

8am Said Communion in St Johns

9.30am Family Communion and Easter

Egg Hunt at St John's





REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Tuesday – Saturday** Morning Prayer at 8.00am (*Please check with Rev Sharon*)
Tuesday 10.00am Toddler Group – a morning of crafts, toys, singing and support for parents and carers
Wednesday 9.30am Communion in church, followed by fellowship, coffee and Food bank in the hall
Thursday 10.30am Little Angels – an hour of Christian action songs and story for pre-schoolers

REGULAR TEAM SERVICES

- Missing Evensong?** Why not go along to Mark at 5pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
Looking for a different style of worship? Try Creative Worship at St John's on the 4th Sunday of the month

WEDDINGS & BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Please contact Rev Preb Sharon Crossman to discuss a wedding. Tel 789290

BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Office to book a baptism. Tel 780633

Love and foolishness– Letter from Bishop Ruth

'Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!'

April 1st is both Easter Sunday and April Fool's Day. Not a bad combination. For 'it is the foolish things of God which confound the wise of this world', so says Paul in his letter to Corinth. The message of the cross itself is foolish he says, and he, Paul, in telling the story of it, does so inexpertly, and through his own weakness.

The story of God's grace doesn't make sense to many...

'What does God see that's worth redeeming in this world?'

'Why love **me**?'

And if we get past these questions, then...

'How come his forgiveness is for **everyone**, when evidently doesn't deserve it?!'

Perhaps like Paul we find it difficult to communicate the message of the cross well to others. We may feel we lack theological understanding, be unfamiliar with all the atonement theories, find it hard to put into words. But the simple fact is that the best way of telling the story, the message of Easter is through you, yourself.

As people look at the way you live, do they see someone with faults and failings, flawed and yet someone who knows that God loves them. Do they see you accepting the grace of God shown through his giving of himself on a cross for us? Do they see someone who now lives in the freedom of that forgiveness, living a life in all its abundance and fullness?

I have to confess that I find myself often continuing to strive to earn God's love and grace. My life becomes full of all that I seek to do in ministry for him. Forgetful that the message of the cross is the expression of his love for me, freely given, without strings. All I need do is receive his love.

What foolishness! Such love!

The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley Bishop of Taunton

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sun 1st	8am Said Comm	9.30am Family Communion
Tues 3 rd		Toddler Group Easter break – returns 10 th April
Wed 4 th	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00 Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
Thurs 5 th		Little Angels Easter break – returns 12 th April
Sat 7 th	6.00pm	Renewal of Wedding vows
Sun 8th	8am Said Communion	9.30am Family Communion
Tues 10 th	10.00am	Toddler Group in church hall
Wed 11 th	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00 Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
	7.30pm	Churches Together – West Huntspill Methodist
Thurs 12 th	10.30am	Little Angels in church hall
Fri 13 th	7.00pm	Highbridge in Times Gone By – slideshow in hall
Sun 15th	9am Said Communion	3pm Christian Aid Service at St John's
Tues 17 th	10.00am	Toddler Group in church hall
	6.00pm	Supper followed by APCM at 7pm in hall
Wed 18 th	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in hall
Thurs 19 th	10.30am	Little Angels in church hall
Sun 22nd	8am Said Communion	9.30am Communion
Tues 24 th	10.00am	Toddler Group in church hall
Wed 25 th	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in hall
Thurs 26 th	10.30am	Little Angels in church hall

Sunday 29th April 10am TEAM SERVICE at Mark
No services at St John's that day

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Rev Preb Sharon Crossman 789290
 Associate Priest: Rev Tonya Nixon 793950
 Churchwardens: Ian Chedzey 785367
 Chris Perry 783753



THE WEDDING WEEKEND

St John's Church Highbridge TA9 3HS
18th-20th May

Displays of wedding dresses, floral tributes, music, wedding traditions, royal wedding "street party", songs of praise. Renew your own wedding vows by booking: weddingweekend2018@gmail.com



 @stjohnshighbridge

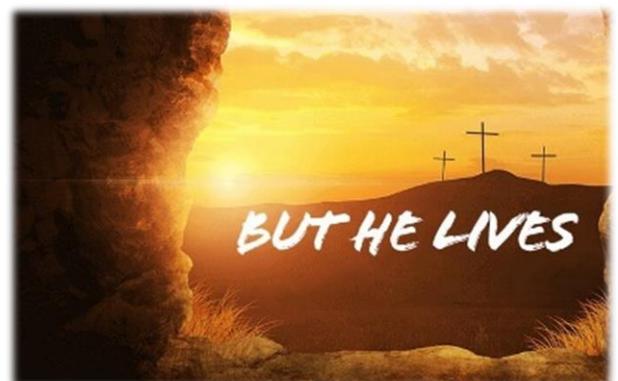
Open
 Friday 18th 6pm - 9pm
 Saturday 19th 10am - 4pm
 Sunday 20th May 11am - 5pm



Office opening hours:

Tuesdays: 8am-12noon
 Wednesdays: 8am-3.30pm
 Fridays: 8am-12.30pm

Please ring before visiting: 780633



If you would like an event or date to be included in the April Signpost, please contact Shirley Vickery-Mills (Parish Administrative Assistant) via the details stated at the start of the sheet, by Friday 20th April.