

St John the Evangelist Signpost

August 2018

Dear Friends,

First, if you have picked up this leaflet and are a tourist in our area, a very warm welcome and we hope you enjoy this beautiful corner of Somerset. Secondly, in this quieter month in the church's calendar, I hope you all have a moment or two to relax and refresh. And finally, please do take a moment this month to take a look at the information board about the financial position of our church. The display will simply inform us on how we are doing and how we can all review our contribution.

Rev Preb Sharon Crossman



The Summer Sermon Series

Once again, this year we are following a sermon series that helps us explore our faith drawing on a theme. This year our theme is from one of the Pilgrim Courses: Church & Kingdom. This is about how we live day by day as followers of Christ. As Christians we seek to be "Christ-like," to be like Jesus. We shall be exploring what this means for us each day as a member of his church. At home, at work amongst our family and friends. How we use our gifts of time, talents, passions, resources and money. How our faith affects our sense of justice in our community and in our world. You will see the themes for the summer and the main reading in the table below. If you would like to go a bit deeper you may like to visit the pilgrim website: <http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/> where you will be able to listen to other speakers talking on the subjects. You can also buy a booklet of the series from Rev Sharon for £5.

5th August	Praying through life Reading: Psalm 40:1-8
12th August Family Service	At home and at work Reading: Deut 5:12-15
19th August	Living generously Reading: 2 Cor 8:1-15
26th August	In all my relationships Reading: Luke 10:25-37
2nd September	Confronting the injustices of the world. Reading: Psalm 85:7-13
9th September Family Service	Treading lightly on the earth. A Green Communion

5th August Trinity 10**Readings:** Psalm 40:1-8; John 6.24-35**Collect:** Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**Post Communion:** God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**12th August Trinity 11****Readings:** Deuteronomy 5:12-15; John 6.35, 41-51**Collect:** God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.**Post Communion:** Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**19th August Trinity 12****Readings:** 2 Corinthians 8.1-15; John 6.51-58**Collect:** God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**Post Communion:** God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**26th August Trinity 13****Readings:** Luke 10.25-37; John 6.56-69**Collect:** Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**Post communion:** God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**PRAYER FOCUS****Sunday:***for each other and our fellowship as a church family***Monday:***for those who live with long term illness or disability***Tuesday:***for countries where democracy is under strain***Wednesday:***think today of someone you haven't seen for a while***Thursday:***for those awaiting exam results***Friday:***for all couples preparing to take the significant step of marriage***Saturday:***for all visitors and tourists to our region, for fun and safety***Our Pastoral Prayers****Baptisms**

We pray for parents, godparents and those preparing to be baptised.

Marriages

Couples recently united and those preparing for marriage. Especially for Kim & Liam, Joey & Colette. And those celebrating special anniversaries, Mandy & David.

Those in need of our prayers:

Margaret Moyle, Hazel, Betty Montgomery, Stevie, Betty Player, Josie Dolan

For those who have died

Mary Draper

Those whose anniversary falls this month:

Jean Morris, Fred Amesbury, Mary Dibble, Ken Preston, Brian Saunders, Ruth Prince, Francis Mills, Christine Oatway, Patricia Bennett, Patricia Weller, Jennifer Gibbs, Thelma Moore (1st Sep)



AUGUST HOLIDAY

Due to holidays in August, there will be no further news sheets until Sunday 2nd September.

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.

Your plastic bottles – ready for our September All Age service

Please continue 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.



Burnham & Highbridge Friendship Club

The Friendship Club have a coach outing to Sidmouth on 12th September leaving Pier Street at 10am. Cost £10.00. Please see Audrey or phone 783446 for more details. All welcome.



Glimpsing the glory of God

Recently Jane and I made our first trip to Iona which is accessed by small boat from the adjacent island of Mull. According to tradition Columba and twelve companions went there in 563AD. The monastery they founded became a centre of mission and teaching and played a crucial role in the conversion to Christianity of Scotland and the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Northumberland.

However, during the Viking invasions the monastery was destroyed and abandoned, until 1938 when the Revd George MacLeod re-founded a community there and rebuilt the Abbey. MacLeod was an unconventional and at times controversial figure. He became a pacifist, despite having served in World War One. He saw action in Greece and then at Ypres and Passchendaele for which he was awarded the Military Cross and the French Croix de Guerre for bravery.

After ordination he turned his back on prosperous prestigious parishes to become minister at Govan, a parish in a poor part of Glasgow with considerable social problems. However, he is best remembered for founding the Iona Community as an international ecumenical community which emphasised mission, political involvement, the ministry of healing and worship. Through this he sought to keep the Church connected with an increasingly secular industrial society.

It is whilst on Iona that he is attributed with popularizing the concept of "Thin Places," a concept which comes from Celtic Christianity. Celts believed that in some places God's presence seems more tangible, more accessible than elsewhere. Places where heaven and earth seem to touch, where the holy and the human meet. Places where the Spirit of God is at work in ways that we can sense, where both beauty and brokenness co-exist.

I believe that God can and does meet us everywhere, that he is present with us on every step of life's journey. Nonetheless, for those early Celtic Christians on Iona, looking at where sky and sea met, it must have seemed that they were on the edge of the world, where heaven and earth met. We were only on Iona for a day but as we left I felt I had glimpsed something of the glory of God and that something of the peace of God was coming back with me.

May the Lord be with us all wherever we are and whatever we do.

With warm Christian greetings, **The Rt Revd Peter Hancock** Bishop of Bath and Wells

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

AUGUST

- 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
- Tues 28th 7.30pm Baptism preparation
- Wed 29th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

SEPTEMBER

- Sun 2nd 8am Said Communion 9.30am Sung Communion
- Wed 5th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Sat 8th We welcome Ride & Stride participants in church today
- Sun 9th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family 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-3pm Thursdays: 8am-10am Fridays: 8am-12noon

August hours only from w/b 6th August: Wednesdays 8th & 29th 8am-2pm

Normal office hours resume 3rd September