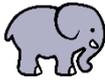


ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST SIGNPOST

MARCH 2018

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Mothering Sunday
11th March 9.30am
Family Service



Sat 24th 10am
Easter Fair & creating
Easter gardens

Thursdays in Lent
7pm
Discussion in church

Fridays in Lent
5.30pm
Reflections around
'Stations of the cross'

Palm Sunday 3pm
Worship around the
crosses on Brent Knoll

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

You may be surprised that elephants and silence will both form part of our Mothering Sunday this year. I hope you are having a good and fruitful Lent so far. If your Lenten discipline has slipped, don't give up – just start again. And don't forget Mothering Sunday is also known as Refreshment Sunday - when, if you need a little break from the harsh discipline of Lent you can, as we celebrate Mother Church, as well as giving thanks for our mums - both those still with us, as well as honouring the memory of those we have lost. This month we have a slightly new look "Signpost" to make space for the items that used to be published in the magazine. Do take time to read Bishop Peter's letter. Our continued thanks for all who have supported the magazine over the years.

Rev Preb Sharon



Holy Week from 25th March

We are not creating all of the Holy Week displays this year, as we have done in previous years, but rather, each day a new display will be erected to build the journey throughout the week - starting on Palm Sunday with the arches that have been so popular. Each evening we shall gather for a short quiet reflection around each new display. On Maundy Thursday we recall the act of humble service from our Lord and Saviour and recreate his sharing of the cup and bread. Before keeping quiet vigil until 10pm.

EASTER FAIR Saturday 24th March

10am till Noon

Don't forget to bring along your lush 'grass' tray to continue making your Easter garden in church. There will also be plenty of fun activities and games for the children.

In the hall will be stalls of cakes, Easter eggs, raffles, toys, games, books etc all to enjoy alongside a cuppa with friends.

PRAYERS FOR MARCH

Sunday:
Make time to listen to God today

Monday:
For the start of our working week,
that we may consciously live out
our faith wherever we are

Tuesday:
For those who work and live in care
homes

Wednesday:
For our ecumenical friends and for
Lent Lunches in many churches

Thursday:
For our work with young children &
families and our continuing link
with Churchfield School

Friday:
Those who are persecuted and
imprisoned for their faith

Saturday:
For community activities around
our towns and villages

COLLECTS AND READINGS

4th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

Readings: Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2 13-22

Collect: Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

11th March 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

Readings: Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25b-27

Collect: God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

18th March 5th Sunday of Lent

Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrew 5.5-10; John 12.20-33

Collect: Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us,

25th March 6th Sunday of Lent Palm Sunday

Reading of the Passion according to Mark

Collect: True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

Post Communion: Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

Maundy Thursday

Readings: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26;

John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Collect: God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful.

Post Communion: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruit of your redemption, for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

EASTER SUNDAY 1st April

6am (TBC) 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

**From the January / February Registers****Funerals**

"Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord"

5th February Barbara Reed (78)

16th February Jean Cox (80)

27th February Gordon Norris (87)

SIGNPOST MARCH

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

MAKING SPACE – Letter from Bishop Peter

I remember my father once saying 'as you get older the seconds seem longer, but the years go by faster.' I think he was right. Perhaps that's your experience too? In March 2014 I officially became the Bishop of Bath and Wells and began to 'take up the reins' and it's two years since I was appointed the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding. The time has flown by. Even more amazing is that this year I shall have been ordained for 38 years and I thank God for all that he has enabled me to see and do through those years. In my study there's a picture of a much-younger me, taken at my ordination in 1980. Looking at it reminds me of the Lord's grace and goodness to me and to Jane through those years.

I will be taking some time some study leave in May and June this year. At one time these were called 'sabbaticals' and that word is from the same root as 'Sabbath', which means to take time to rest. I am particularly grateful to Bishop Ruth and the Bishop's Staff who have encouraged me to take this time, especially as it will mean they will have to 'keep an eye on the shop'.

This will give me an opportunity to spend time reading and reflecting on what God may be saying about the priorities and opportunities for the diocese and the wider Church - and time to pray and think more about the challenges which lie ahead of us. During this time Jane and I have arranged to go to Israel. Neither of us has been there before and that in itself will be a wonderful experience.

In the midst of busy, noisy and often crowded lives it is hard at times to make space to read and to pray, to make time to listen to God and to build our relationship with him. I am sure that having this precious gift of time will mean that I return renewed and refreshed for all that lies ahead as together we seek to live and tell the story of Jesus.

Taking care of our spiritual lives is something we all need to do and Jesus took time to be apart with his Heavenly Father. I know not everyone can take study leave, but even a half day will often help to charge the 'spiritual batteries'. I look forward to sharing with you some of what I have learnt when I get back to the desk.

With warm Christian greetings Rt Rev Peter Hancock Bishop of Bath and Wells

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Thurs 1 st	10.30am	Little Angels in hall
	7.00pm	Lent Discussion in Vicarage
Fri 2 nd	5.30pm	Reflections around the Stations of the cross
Sat 3 rd	1.00pm	LWA Training in vicarage
Tues 6 th	10.00am	Toddler Group in church hall
	7.30pm	PCC in church hall
Wed 7 th	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00 Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
Thurs 8 th	10.30am	Little Angels in church hall
	7.00pm	Lent Discussion in Vicarage
Fri 9 th	5.30pm	Reflections around the Stations of the cross
Sat 10 th	11.00am	Wedding
Tues 13 th	10.00am	Toddler Group in church hall
Wed 14 th	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
Thurs 15 th	10.30am	Little Angels in church hall
	7.00pm	Lent Discussion in Vicarage
Fri 16 th	5.30pm	Reflections around the Stations of the cross
Sat 17 th	6.00pm	Highbridge Festival of the Arts choirs in church
Tues 20 th	10.00am	Toddler Group in church hall (then on holiday until 10 th April)
Wed 21 st	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
Thurs 22 nd	10.30am	Little Angels in church hall (then on holiday until 12 th April)
	7.00pm	Lent Discussion in Vicarage
Fri 23 rd	5.30pm	Reflections around the Stations of the cross
Sat 24 th	10.00am	Easter Fair in church and hall



HOLY WEEK

Mon 26 th	8.00pm	Prayers and reflections in church
Tues 27 th	8.00pm	Prayers and reflections in church
Wed 28 th	9.30am	Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
	8.00pm	Prayers and reflections in church
Thurs 29 th	7.00pm	Last Supper followed by "Stay with me" vigil until 10.00pm
Fri 30 th	10.00am	Family service (OFFICE CLOSED)
	2.00pm	Holy hour
Sat 31 st	8.00pm	Blessing of Light service

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



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 16th March.***

SIGNPOST MARCH