

St John the Evangelist

2nd Sunday of Lent

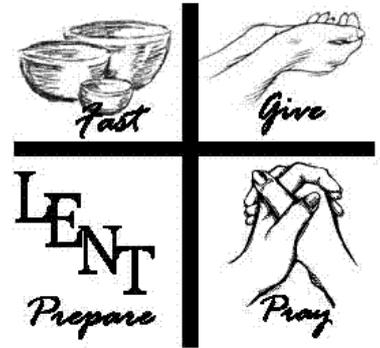
Signpost Weekly

17th March 2019

Dear Friends,

This past Saturday, we once again hosted the final evening of the Highbridge Festival of the Arts. It has been good to be in school and to see the delight on children's faces having done well. I am in no doubt Saturday will have been a good evening (although at time of writing it is yet to happen!). We shall hold our own mini music marathon again this year in June. It is good to celebrate local talent. So let us, in amongst all the anxieties that often weigh us down, take time to also give thanks for all that may lift us up and to celebrate the skills and gifts of music and performance. God grants to us many creative abilities.

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

17th March 2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-end

Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

24th March 3rd Sunday of Lent Isaiah 55.1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9

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.

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.

June Hodge, Michael Millam, Dennis Watts

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Pamela Etherton, David Porter, Barbara Colton, Fred Faulkes,

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Give thanks for the gift of all musicians and artists

Monday:

For the start of the working week

Tuesday:

For the Toddler Group & Little Angels

Wednesday:

Pray for the school governors meeting tonight

Thursday:

For Rev Kevin Wright to be licensed to Three Saints today

Friday:

For those in Government grappling with Brexit

Saturday:

For times of rest and refreshment



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

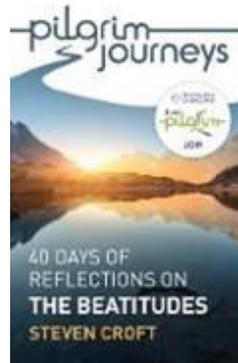
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

TA9 3HS

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

TICKETS
£5

Lent App



The app for this is now available from your usual app source. (itunes/googleplay). Just search for Lent Pilgrim.

Rev Sharon has it on her phone and was delighted to find that you just pressed play and listened!

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*

Lent Visits

Don't forget Rev Dan & Rev Sharon would love to drop around for a chat sometime during Lent. Pop your name down against one of their slots. It's simply an opportunity for getting to know each other that bit better. You may like to chew over a question. You may have a few ideas about what we might do as a church. Or just chat over a cuppa about nothing much!

ELECTORAL ROLL

Please make sure you have returned your form by **TODAY!! - 17th March**

The special Lent edition of the weekly sheet is still available. Please pick up your copy, if you haven't already.

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 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

Tues 26th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 27th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

7.00pm 'Highbridge revisited' slideshow in hall – see posters for details & how to get tickets.

Thurs 28th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 29th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross

Sun 31st NO 8am service 9.30am Family Communion for Mothering Sunday

APRIL

Tues 2nd 10am Toddlers in church hall

7.30pm Baptism Preparation

Wed 3rd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 4th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

7.45pm Lent book group

Fri 5th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross

Sat 6th 3pm Wedding

Sun 7th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion 3pm Baptism

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