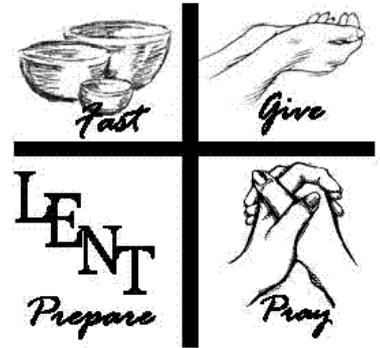


Dear Friends,

I wonder how you are getting on this Lent? If you've given something up, how is that going? If you're reading/listening to the Lent Pilgrim resources, or reading one of our recommended books, are you keeping up? Is it helping you or a burden you carry? Are you doing something else? How's it going? Each Sunday in Lent offers us an opportunity to pause and take stock. It is a valuable opportunity that helps us keep our eyes on Jesus and focus on God's most incredible gift of grace. However, as Jesus reminds us in today's gospel, we must not treat this offer of grace as if it were a cheap or trivial matter. Let's strive to be people of grace and love, taking all God's gifts to us seriously.

Rev Dan



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

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.

31st March 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday Exodus 2.1-10; 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.

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.

Dennis Watts

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Paul Chapman, Mary Wills, Derek Dingley, Elsie Nash, Gladys Amesbury

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Take a moment of stillness today to pause and thankful.

Monday:

Our care of the world God created

Tuesday:

For all who work with children and young people

Wednesday:

John Strickland's Presentation of Highbridge's Past Revisited this evening

Thursday:

The Churches Together meeting this evening

Friday:

For Bishop Peter and Bishop Ruth

Saturday:

For those who are struggling in our community



Slide Show

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

This is a follow up slideshow from the last event, put together by John Strickland, a completely new show, with slides never shown before!

Youthful Spirit Gospel Choir

A night of Gospel Music
Youthful Spirit Gospel Choir
(Churchill Academy & 6th Form)
Friday 29 March at 7.30pm at
St John the Baptist Church, Axbridge

Admission £8 (under 16 £5) on the door or in advance

Tickets available from Jan Rabbitts 01934 732768 or Elizabeth Zanker 01937 733034 also at Axbridge Pharmacy

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*

Clocks Spring forward

A reminder that next Sunday – 31st March - the clocks spring forward (we lose an hour in bed). We are sure none of you would want to be an hour late for church!!

REMINDER – There is no 8am Service next Sunday – 31st March - Mothering Sunday. There is one service at St John's - a Family Communion at 9.30am.

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

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!

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 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
7.30pm Mission Planning Group
- 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**
- Tues 9th 10am Toddlers on Easter break
- Wed 10th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
- Thurs 11th 10.30am Little Angels on Easter break
- Fri 12th 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross
- Sat 13th 10am – 12noon Easter Fair
- Sun 14th **PALM SUNDAY**
8am Said Communion 9.30am Palm Procession, Reading of Passion & Communion
3pm Ecumenical Worship on Brent Knoll

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