

St John the Evangelist

Signpost Weekly

Mothering Sunday

31st March 2019

Dear Friends,

In our church year we have reached Mothering Sunday, a day that many of us find challenging for a number of reasons. As I personally give thanks for my own mother, the mother I have seen my wife become, and all I see acting with a mothering instinct around me, particularly with our girls, I am reminded of the mothering qualities that scripture attribute to God. We tend to focus on the male characteristics of God at the expense of his feminine ones. Mothering Sunday offers us the opportunity to address this balance. Wherever you find yourselves on this Mothering Sunday, however you are feeling, I pray that you will find the space to be honest about how you feel, to rejoice, to be thankful, to grieve, to hurt. God is able to receive every feeling that we experience and will hold, love and care for us through times of joy and challenge.

*Rev Dan*



## Persistent prayer

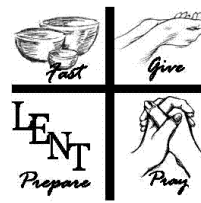
**'Great oaks from little acorns grow'** is a saying you may have grown up with. I was thinking about it at a recent visit to the Weston hospice. This year it celebrates 30 years of caring for those who have terminal illness. They have some 600 volunteers and 150 staff offering home care, day centre 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

**31<sup>st</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**7<sup>th</sup> April 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8**

**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, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

### 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.

#### Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Leslie Williamson, Michael Hockey, Mary Skinner

### PRAYER FOCUS

#### Sunday:

*For all who are finding today difficult*

#### Monday:

*For those who work in our emergency services and the caring professions*

#### Tuesday:

*For those preparing for baptism and the recently baptised*

#### Wednesday:

*For our Mission Planning group meeting this evening*

#### Thursday:

*All who no longer work, particularly those who have retired or unable to work due to health*

#### Friday:

*For those countries and communities in our world that are struggling*

#### Saturday:

*For those who are preparing to be married this year*



### EASTER LILIES

If you would like to order an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, please fill in an order form and return, with the money (£2 each) to Olga.

## ***Help still 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**

## ***EASTER FAIR***

***Help on stalls, donations of cakes, bottles, raffle prizes etc all very welcome.***

***Please do speak to Ian or Pat to offer help.***

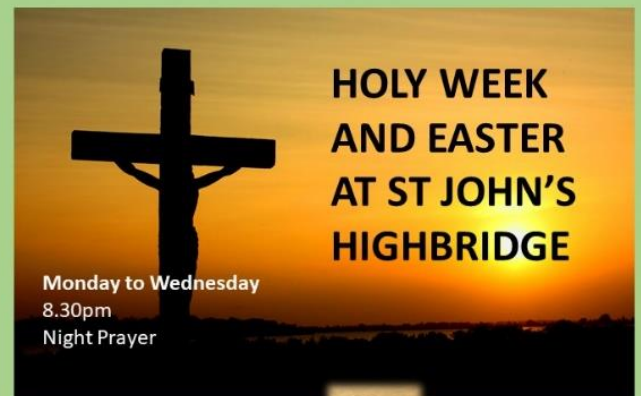
**Easter Fair  
Saturday 13th April  
10am – noon  
St John's Church &  
Hall, Highbridge**



## ***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!

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



**Good Friday.**  
10am Family Service followed by hot cross buns  
2pm Music and Prayers around the cross



**Maundy Thursday**  
7.30pm Last Supper followed by vigil till 10pm



**Holy Saturday 8pm** The Easter Fire and service of light followed by fellowship and marshmallows around the fire

### **Easter Sunday**

8am Said Communion  
9.30am Family Communion followed by Easter Egg Hunt  
3pm Short communion followed by cake



Huge thanks to John Strickland for another very informative slideshow on the history of Highbridge. A very successful evening was enjoyed by 125 locals and raised over £600. Thanks also to the organisation of Liz Davies, with the help of her mum, dad and Ollie – well done!

# 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 31<sup>st</sup> **\*\*NO 8am service\*\*** 9.30am Family Communion for Mothering Sunday



## APRIL

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am Toddlers in church hall

7.30pm Baptism Preparation

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

7.30pm Mission Planning Group

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

7.45pm Lent book group

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> 3pm Wedding

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> **8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion 3pm Baptism**

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> 10am Toddlers on Easter break

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Little Angels on Easter break

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Reflections around Stations of the Cross

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12noon Easter Fair

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> **PALM SUNDAY**

**8am Said Communion 9.30am Palm Procession, Reading of Passion & Communion**

**3pm Ecumenical Worship on Brent Knoll**

## HOLY WEEK – see Lent Signpost

To submit an article for the Signpost Weekly please e-mail  
[office@stjohnshighbridge.org.uk](mailto: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*