

Dear Friends,

This week we have welcomed around 460 pupils from Churchfield school into the church to 'Experience Easter'. They have engaged with the story in incredible ways and those of us supporting and guiding them as they have engaged have learned plenty too! It has been wonderful to hear our church building bustling with the sound of children exploring our story of faith. Then, at our APCM, a group presented plans for a process of (re)discovering God's vision for Highbridge. If you were not at the APCM then do please pick up the short paper which outlines the process we will be undertaking as a community of faith in this place, as we strive to share our story with the community we serve, just as we have this week.

Rev Dan



He is not here. He is risen!

I heard a wonderful story recently about a Church Sunday School which was putting on a drama telling the story of Holy Week and Easter. All had gone well and the wonderful moment arrived when the angel appeared to the women at the tomb to declare those glorious words: 'He is not here, he is risen.' (Luke 24:6). Unfortunately, five-year-old Brian could not remember what to say, and so the Youth Leader had to quietly remind him of his line. He then confidently grabbed the microphone and triumphantly shouted, 'He's not here; He's in prison!'

As we move this month from Lent into Holy Week and onto Good Friday, I am sure we are all looking forward to Easter Day when we shall once again hear those words ring out 'He is not here, he is risen!' And we shall rejoice and celebrate again the glorious truth that Jesus rose from the dead. Death could not hold him. When Jesus began his ministry in Galilee, he declared that: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And those words from Isaiah help us understand why Jesus came. He came to proclaim freedom for the prisoner and to release the oppressed. He came that we might 'have life and have it to the full'. He came to release us from our sins and set us free from our fears. He came that we might know God and that through knowing God we might have eternal life. 'I am the resurrection and the life' he said. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.'

The good news of the Easter message is that although Jesus died upon the cross he rose again and through his resurrection he overcame the power of sin and the sting of death. That is why Paul could write: 'Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Corinthians 15: 57). This Easter let us give thanks that Jesus is not dead. He is not in prison. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Right Revd Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells

COLLECTS AND READINGS

28th April 2nd Sunday of Easter Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8; Matthew 28.16-20

Collect: Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Post Communion: Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5th May 3rd Sunday of Easter Acts 9.1-6; Revelation 5.11-end; John 21.1-19

Collect: Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, 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.

Marriage

Couples recently united, and those preparing for marriage, especially Stuart & Dayna-Rae, Marie & Cameron and Richard & Gemma

Baptisms:

We pray for parents, godparents and those preparing to be baptised, especially for Annabelle who is to be baptised today.

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:

Brenda Sheedy, Florence Hunt, Winifred Wollacott

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Those preparing for baptism and confirmation at this time, particularly Annabelle baptised today

Monday:

Those who work in the caring professions

Tuesday:

Our toddler group, the families and leaders

Wednesday:

For the Church Wardens past and present across our deanery gathering in Mark

Thursday:

Those who serve us in our shops and supermarkets

Friday:

Those visiting the area

Saturday:

All who are preparing for marriage



(Re)discovering God's vision for Highbridge

At our APCM meeting on Wednesday a small group presented plans for a process that we as a church will be undertaking in the coming months. **Please do collect a copy of the outline of the proposed process if you were not at the APCM.** Any member of the small group who have been working on this (Neil Biddiscombe, Derick Cooper, Jenny Dolan, Chris Perry with Rev Dan and Rev Sharon) will happily chat to you about our thinking and how we have reached this early stage.

EASTER FLOWERS

A HUGE thank you to Olga and Helen for the wonderful floral displays that enhanced our Easter celebrations.

Thanks too to all who sponsored lilies in memory of loved ones.

St Margaret's Hospice Afternoon Tea

You are invited to a cream tea on Thursday 9th May at 2.30pm in Room 3, Burnham & Highbridge community Centre, Burnham. Please see notice in church for further details.

Service to Celebrate Weston Hospicecare's 30th Anniversary

Weston Hospicecare was founded in 1989 and there is to be a Service of Celebration on Tuesday 30th April in Christ Church, 16 Monptelier, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2RH at 7.00pm. Anyone is welcome to join us at this Service and to apply for tickets please email (including your postal address) 30thservice@westonhospicecare.org.uk or telephone 01934 423900. Seating in the church is limited so tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Do come and join us as we recognise and celebrate the work that the Hospice has done over the past 30 years, and continues to do, within our local community.

Safeguarding Training

On Tuesday 16th May we are hosting Safeguarding Training for the deanery in the hall. This will run from 6pm to 8pm. Vicky Christophers from the Diocese will be joining us to deliver the training. It is essential that all engaging with children and vulnerable adults access this important and necessary training. Please let Jo Burrige (Parish Safeguarding Officer) or the office know if you have not yet let Jo know that you will be attending.

Marriage.....

Rev Preb Sharon and Liz Jones have been overwhelmed by messages of support and love. You may be aware, that they are unable to have a ceremony in an Anglican Church. They are unable to marry as Rev Preb Sharon would lose her job if they were to do so. They can however enter a civil partnership in a registry office. If you feel this is unfair, you may consider signing an open letter. Please visit this site to add your support. Please speak to Rev Preb Sharon, if you would like more information, or just a chat about where the Church of England stands on this issue.

<https://www.cofe-equal-marriage.org.uk/>

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

Sun 28th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion 3pm Baptism

Tue 30th 10am Toddlers new term starts in hall
7.30pm Baptism Preparation

MAY

Wed 1st 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 2nd 10.30am Little Angels new term starts in hall

Sun 5th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion

Tues 7th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 8th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 9th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Sun 12th 8am Said Communion 9.30am Family Communion 3pm Baptism

Tues 14th 10am Toddlers in church hall

6pm Safeguarding Training in hall

Wed 15th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 16th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Sun 19th 9am Communion 3pm Communion & Tea

Tues 21st 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 22nd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 23rd 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Sat 25th 12.30pm Wedding

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