

Dear Friends,

Did you know that today is Vocations Sunday? You may think that has nothing to do with you – but it does! A vocation may be defined as a role, or a task to which you feel called by God. For some, that means a whole career. Like being a teacher, a nurse, charitable sector, a priest. For many it's a call to run a children's group, like the vision to set up the Toddler Group, or Liz's call to start "Little Angels". It may be a weekly task, like keeping the church grounds tidy or to serve as a leader in our church, like being a church warden. You may not think of admin as a calling, but if the nudge feels rooted in God, it is! So, on this vocations Sunday, just wonder if God may be nudging you and calling you. If he is, have a chat!! Rev Preb Sharon



Finding the best in the world

It's Somerset day on Saturday, 11 May. It is an opportunity to profile some of the delights of our county and develop relationships across our communities. It is on this day that we remember Alfred (a failed 'Bake Off' contestant?) taking on the Vikings from the Somerset marshes and winning, thus spawning a 'make Somerset great again' moment.

Now, don't get me wrong, this isn't about us in Somerset trying to prove we are better than anyone else. We have seen plenty in recent days which has sought to divide rather than unite us as a country. Rather, this is an opportunity to value the uniqueness of some of our wonderful people, places and possibilities here in Somerset and across the diocese. I do hope you will join in! See www.somersetday.com for more details.

And surely that is what the Church should be about too. Celebrating all that is good, joyful and abundant in us. It reminds me of those words from Philippians 4:8...

'Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.'

It is so easy to get caught up with negatives, with the glass half empty syndrome, with stuff that brings us down rather than building us up. I wonder if we might make this month one where we encourage ourselves and others to find the best in the world and people around us. Live life in all its fullness! (*John 10:10*)

Rt Rev Ruth Worsley

Bishop of Taunton

COLLECTS AND READINGS

12th May 4th Sunday of Easter Acts 9.36-end; Revelation 7.9-end; John 10.22-30

Collect: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

19th May 5th Sunday of Easter Acts 11.1-18; Revelation 21.1-6; John 13.31-35

Collect: Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; 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 and Marie & Cameron

Baptisms:

We pray for parents, godparents and those preparing to be baptised; especially for Ethan and Annabelle who are to be baptised next week

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:

Doreen Watts, Anne Harward, David Newman

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Consider how God calls you to your different roles: spouse, parent, friend.....

Monday:

Think of one kind act you may be called to do today

Tuesday:

Do you know someone who may need reminding that God loves them?

Wednesday:

Give thanks for those called to serve in our Foodbank

Thursday:

Thank God for those called to teach, to care, to nurture, to lead, to pray.....

Friday:

Wonder for a moment in what direction, may God be nudging you

Saturday:

Please pray today for Rev Dan, as he travels towards his next step on towards ordination as a priest.

'Pray for Schools Fortnight' encourages churches to pray for their local schools. We would like to encourage churches and individuals in the diocese to join in from 12th - 26th May



(Re)discovering God's vision for Highbridge

At our APCM meeting 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.

Administrative Assistant

First, our huge thanks to Shirley for her dedication and patience over the past 3 years.

Shirley will be stepping down from the role this summer so we are now looking for someone to creep into her shoes.

We are offering eight hours per week over two days. There is scope for a term time only role with some flexibility over when hours are worked.

For full details please contact Rev Preb Sharon

sharon.crossman@btopenworld.com

01278 789290

MUSIC MARATHON

- Next month on **Saturday 15th June**
- we are holding a “mini music marathon,” from 2pm -10pm.
- That’s still quite a long time. We are offering cream teas and an evening BBQ.
- Tickets for the food will go on sale soon for this event.
- Please do two things: spread the word of the event and consider offering to assist on the day.

Safeguarding Training

On **Tuesday 14th 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.

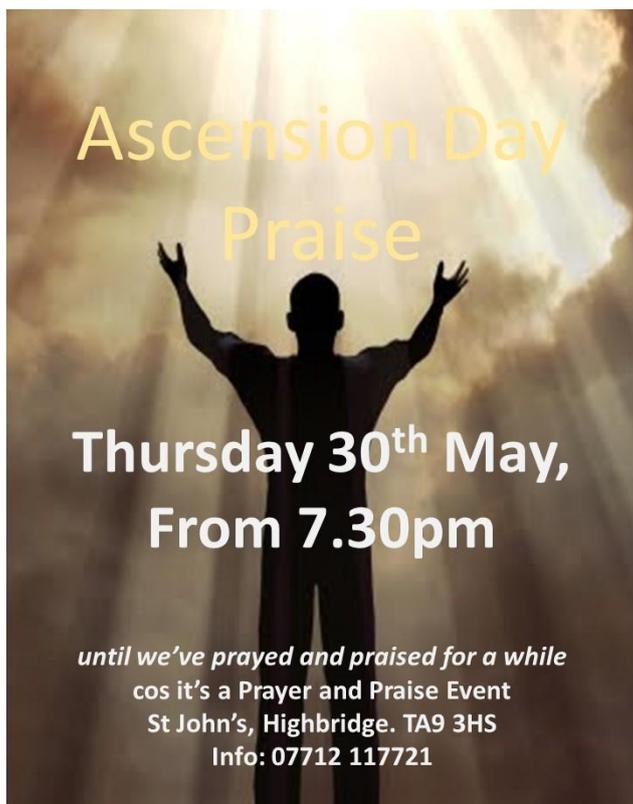
It is essential that all engaging with children and vulnerable adults access this important and necessary training. Please let Jo Burrige (Parish Safeguarding Officer) or the office know if you have not yet let Jo know that you will be attending.

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 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
7.30pm PCC meeting in 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
- Sun 26th** 8am Said Communion 9.30am Communion



Ascension Day
Praise

Thursday 30th May,
From 7.30pm

*until we've prayed and praised for a while
cos it's a Prayer and Praise Event
St John's, Highbridge. TA9 3HS
Info: 07712 117721*

A Churches Together Event. You might as well come along.... In fact be late, be early, come at the end, just come at some point and be part of something for all Christians in our area....

Office email

We have now set up a new office email account, so hopefully you should have received your copy of the Signpost this week electronically – if not, please telephone the office to let Shirley know; also, if you would like to be added to the list and help save paper and photocopying costs, just get in touch. Remember that you can also access the Signpost via our website.

Please use this for all correspondence now:

stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com

To submit an article for the Signpost Weekly
please e-mail:

stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com 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