

Dear Friends,

We rejoice today with Rev Dan and his family as he celebrates his first Eucharist as a priest. It also coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my own priesting and it is an honour to be invited by Dan to preach at his first Eucharist. Curates are encouraged to invite someone who has played a significant role in their journey to this day. After only a year of working with Dan, what a privilege to be asked. I have encouraged Dan to be aware of the Holy Spirit at work as he consecrates the elements. I encourage you all to do the same. It is only in fellowship that we recall the significant act of Christ when he broke bread and shared wine with his friends. An ordinary act with staggering significance. *Rev Sharon*



## We all have something to offer

There is a story told about Sir Michael Costa who was an Italian-born conductor and composer who became well known and popular in England during the nineteenth century. It is said that one day he was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. About halfway through the rehearsal, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling, and violins singing, the piccolo player muttered to himself, "What good am I doing? I might just as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway." So he kept the instrument to his mouth, but he made no sound. Within moments, the conductor cried, "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo?" Michael Costa could tell that the piccolo was not playing. Something was missing and because of that the performance was incomplete.

I am sure there are times when we can all identify with that piccolo player. There are times when we may feel insignificant and useless. Whatever age we are there is the temptation to look at other people who seem to have more talent than we have, who are better at things than we are, who are more confident or skilled than we are - and to think we don't matter or that our contribution doesn't count. Perhaps we are tempted sometimes just to settle back and let somebody else do the work. We reason that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway, or that because other people can do it much better than we can, that there is no point in us joining in.

I take heart from the story of the feeding of the five thousand. In the middle of that story we read of Andrew, Peter's brother saying: 'There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?' (John 6:9). This is a story of someone giving what he has to the Lord and about Jesus then using what is offered to feed a multitude of hungry people (John 6:1-14).

What do we learn from that? Surely one thing we learn is that each of us has something important to offer which God can take and bless and use. Whether our talent is great or small, the performance isn't complete until we do our best with what we have and until we offer our lives and our gifts to God and ask him to use us for his glory and to serve others.

With warm greetings,

The Right Revd Peter Hancock  
Bishop of Bath and Wells

## COLLECTS AND READINGS

**30th June Acts 12.1-11; Matthew 16.13-19**

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Post Communion:** Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**7th July Isaiah 66.10-14; Galatians 6. [1-6] 7-16; Luke 10.1-11,16-20**

**Collect:** God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

**Post Communion:** O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

### Our Pastoral Prayers



*To include somebody on this prayer list please let Liz in the office know by noon on Thursday, making sure the person you wish to be included wants their name in print.*

#### Marriage

Couples preparing for marriage,

#### Baptisms:

We pray for all preparing for baptism, parents & godparents,

#### Those in need of our prayers:

Margaret Moyle, Hazel, Betty Montgomery, Betty Player, Christine Marston, Val & George Crawford Maureen & Ian Thompson, Pete, Brenda

#### For those who have died:

Barbara West (Webb)

#### Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Lawrence Lillycrop, Pamela Lawrence

### PRAYER FOCUS

#### **Sunday:**

*For Dan as he presides at his first Eucharist*

#### **Monday:**

*Seek God in the very ordinariness of today*

#### **Tuesday:**

*For our uniformed organisations and all youth groups in our area*

#### **Wednesday:**

*For those without a permanent home: Sleeping rough, in hostels, in vehicles, on sofas*

#### **Thursday:**

*For all new curates beginning their new ministry this week, especially Jo and Margaret in our Deanery*

#### **Friday:**

*For safe travelling*

#### **Saturday:**

*For your family and all those who feel like family*



## TODAY

Rev Dan presides at his first communion on Sunday 30 June at 10am Please stay for tea/coffee and cake with Dan and his family to celebrate this important occasion.



## Supporting Suzy!

Suzy Kirkham is a student at Trinity Theological college in Bristol and is with us on her summer placement sharing in a range of parish experiences. She finishes next week, when she also preaches.

## Do you want answers to the following questions?

- When is the next music marathon?
- Who will be our next priest?
- How will Dan cope without Sharon?
- Why haven't we had a flower festival?
- Why did the Sunday School close?
- What does it actually cost to run this church?
- When is the next church fair?
- Why don't we do more for the baptism families?
- Who visits the sick?
- How can we get more involved with Churchfield School?



These are the questions the PCC need to be addressing, but with only six members rather than twelve it is very difficult. Help St John's find the answers by being part of the leadership team of St John's which is the PCC. Please speak to Rev Sharon or to Chris Perry (Church warden)



# 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

## JUNE

**Sun 30th 10am Rev Dan presiding at his First Eucharist \*Please note there is no 8am service\***

## JULY

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

**Sun 7th 8am Communion 9.30am Communion 3pm Baptism  
6.30pm Deanery Choral Evensong St. Andrew's Burnham**

Tues 9th 10am Toddlers in church hall  
7.30pm Guild of Servers  
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 in church hall  
Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 4pm Renewal of vows service

**Sun 14th 8am Communion 9.30am Family Communion**

Tues 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Toddlers in church hall –  
Last session before summer break  
12 Noon Funeral  
Wed 17<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am  
Foodbank Listening Place in church hall  
7.30pm Outlook meeting – All welcome  
Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Little Angels in church hall –  
Last session before summer break

**Sun 21st 9am Communion 3pm Communion & tea**

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am No Toddlers – summer break  
Wed 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am  
Foodbank Listening Place in church hall  
Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am No Little Angels - summer break

## SERMON SERIES

From 28<sup>th</sup> July we shall begin a short sermon series focusing on mission in our wider community and what it means to live out our faith every day.

**Telling our story.**

**Nurturing our faith.**

**Caring for the vulnerable.**

**Speaking out for justice.**

**Caring for God's creation.**

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

**[stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com) or leave a message on 01278 780633**

**by noon on Thursday**

**Parish office opening hours**

**Wednesday 9.30am -2.30pm, Thursday 12 noon - 2.30pm, Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm Term time only**

***Please ring in advance***