

St John the Evangelist

5th Sunday after Trinity

Signpost Weekly

21st July 2019

Dear Friends,

As August and the holiday high season approaches, we welcome many who are visiting our area and hope they enjoy a restful, relaxing and safe time in our region. Liz will take a break from admin in August, devoting her time to the boys. She has settled in to her new role well and we look forward to her return in September. There will be no signpost during August, but all the readings are being printed on a separate sheet. I shall be around on and off during August, but will be moving at some point. I'll be back for my final service on Sunday 1st September. I'm sure more details for that day will emerge soon. Please keep Dan and Sarah, Lynne and Chris in your prayers, as they support each other during the vacancy. *Preb Sharon*



Always with us

On 20 July 1969 the world watched something extraordinary. This was when the Eagle lunar module landed on the Moon's Sea of Tranquility. This was the very first time that anyone had been to the moon. But astronauts [Neil Armstrong](#) and [Buzz Aldrin](#) had to do something hard. After years of preparation and their long and hazardous flight they had to wait. They were about to open the door of their lunar lander and step onto the unknown surface of a completely different world. But for now, their mission ordered them to take a pause, to wait and prepare for that 'First step'. That hour-long downtime period was designed to let the astronauts recover from their space flight and prepare for their moon walk.

It is now well known that Buzz Aldrin spent his time praying, reading the Bible and taking Holy Communion. Aldrin was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church, and before he headed into space in 1969, he got special permission to take bread and wine with him into space and to give himself communion. As the men prepared for the next phase of their mission, Aldrin spoke to the ground crew back on Earth. "I would like to request a few moments of silence," he said. "I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever they may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in their own individual way."

He then reached for the wine and bread he'd brought to space—the first foods ever poured or eaten on the moon. "I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup," he later wrote. The words he read were those of Jesus: 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in you, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me.'

After the resurrection, as Jesus ascended back to heaven, he gave a promise to his disciples that he would be with them always, wherever they were and wherever they went. As Buzz Aldrin took communion on the Moon, he too was aware of that promise. It is a promise that is also true for us today and so whatever each day may bring let us remember to 'wait' before we step out into the day and ask that Jesus may indeed be with us. As we say in Communion: 'The Lord is here.' 'His Spirit is with us.'

With warm greetings,

The Right Revd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

COLLECTS AND READINGS

21st July Genesis 18.1-10a; Colossians 1.15-28; Luke 10.38-end

Collect: Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Post Communion:

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please note readings and collects for 28th July and throughout August are on a separate sheet and have been chosen to support the sermon series

Telling our story. Nurturing our faith. Caring for the vulnerable. Speaking out for justice.
Caring for God's creation

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 especially Elsie, Axle, Nico, Lexi and Leo who are all being baptised during the coming weeks.

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:

And we shall continue to pray for those whose anniversary falls during the week, please see the intercession list.



AUGUST PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

For those on holiday in our region

Monday:

For the responsibilities we hold, at work, at home, in our families and amongst our friends

Tuesday:

For families and children, now that school is finished

Wednesday:

For those who access the foodbank during the summer

Thursday:

For the RNLI and BARB and all emergency services

Friday:

Pray for someone close to you today; you may give thanks, pray for a concern, or simply hold them before God

Saturday:

For patience and safety on journeys

SERMON SERIES

From 28th 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.

- 28th July** Telling our story.
- 4th August** Nurturing our faith.
- 11th August** Caring for the vulnerable.
- 18th August** Speaking out for justice.
- 25th August** Caring for God's creation.



OFFICE CLOSURE

From the week commencing 22nd July the parish office will not be staffed due to the new office opening hours being term time only however please do leave a message on the answer machine which will be checked regularly or contact Rev. Sharon or Rev. Dan.

FOODBANK

Thank you if you contribute to the foodbank. If you are a regular contributor or are able to give occasional please note that the following items are currently needed:

- tinned fruit (400gms)
- tea bags (80's)
- Fruit Juice (long life)
- UHT milk (1 litre)
- Breakfast Cereals

We have plenty of beans and soup!!

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)

Somerset time for youth

Starting 15th July, every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 2-4pm. Somerset time for youth will be holding a café serving tea/coffee and cakes in our hall. Please do pop along and support this group.



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

JULY

Sun 21st 9am Communion 3pm Communion & tea

Tues 23rd 10.00am No Toddlers – summer break

Wed 24th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am
Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 25th 10.30am No Little Angels - summer break

Sun 28th 8am Communion 9.30am Communion

Tues 30th 10am No Toddlers

7.30pm Baptism Preparation

Wed 31st 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

August

Thurs 1st 10.30am No Little Angels

Please pray for the Churches Together Tent at the Family Fun Day on Wednesday 7th August.

Wednesday Communion and Foodbank continue throughout August.

Please note we celebrate Rev Sharon leaving....!

On Sunday 1st September at a 10am service.

No 8am Communion that day.

No Signpost Weekly during August please e-mail:

stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com or leave a message on 01278 780633

to make a prayer request. This will be added to the Sunday Intercessions.

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FOR SALE: Rev Sharon has the following items needing to find a new home. Electric garden strimmer, power washer, medium sized snooker table, dart board, cross trainer, chairs, desks. Please ring 01278 789290, or text 07712 117721