

St John the Evangelist

3rd Sunday after Trinity

Signpost Weekly

7th July 2019

Dear Friends,

Wow!! What an amazing weekend. Several of us made it across to Wells last Saturday to support Dan as he was ordained priest. We had a larger than average congregation last Sunday, as we were joined by our brothers and sisters from the villages to celebrate with Dan as he presided at his first Eucharist. I must admit, it didn't feel like "his first." I think it was a reminder of how, when God calls, he also equips, and to me it felt like I was beside a priest who had been presiding for years. Well done Dan. I also had the opportunity to be in Truro Cathedral on the Friday evening to celebrate as two more family members were ordained deacon at another very moving service. And today we wish Suzy well, as she leaves us to continue her journey towards ordination.

We wish you well.

Preb 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

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

14th July Deuteronomy 30.9-14; Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37

Collect: Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Post Communion: Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 and for Paul and Georgina as they renew their vows.

Baptisms:

We pray for all preparing for baptism, parents & godparents and especially Nova Goodland who will be baptised today.

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:

Jane Brown, John Davies, Michael Warner, William (Billy) Conibeer, Dorothy (Dot) Denman,

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

*For Suzy as she preaches today
For the deanery evensong this evening*

Monday:

*For the start of the working week -
Pray for your work colleagues today*

Tuesday:

For the Guild of servers meeting tonight

Wednesday:

*For the Collective Worship Group
meeting in school today*

Thursday:

*For this parish as the admin team meet
to plan the autumn*

Friday:

*For stability in those places where peace
talks are necessary*

Saturday:

*For those making, renewing and
celebrating their wedding vows*



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.



Please note!

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.

Supporting Suzy!

Suzy will be preaching today and finishing her summer placement with us this week.

We wish Suzy all the best as she continues her studies at Trinity Theological College in Bristol. Please do keep Suzy in your prayers as she continues her journey to ordination.

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

JULY

**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 10th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank
Listening Place in church hall
Thurs 11th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall
Sat 13th 4pm Renewal of vows service

Sun 14th 8am Communion 9.30am Family Communion

Tues 16th 10.00am Toddlers in church hall – Last session before summer break
12 Noon Funeral
Wed 17th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am
Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
7.30pm Outlook meeting – All welcome
Thurs 18th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall – Last session before summer break
Please note Churchfield school have their end of year services and prize-giving in church today. Please pray for all attending

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

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

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