

St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 15th September

Dear Friends,

Like me, you may have begun to notice the evenings drawing in and the mornings remaining dark for longer. While this has had a positive impact on the sleeping patterns of children under 3 – something greatly noticed and appreciated in our home – it is also a reminder of the rhythm of the seasons as we enter autumn. Each season of the year offers its own insight into the beauty and glory of God's creation. As the berries scattered among the bushes around us ripen, the leaves begin to fall from the trees, and the misty and frosty mornings are around the corner, we glimpse creation in a different light. The changing seasons are a gift from God to us, but like any gift we need to open our hands to receive it. This week, why not try to slow down, look around, and marvel at the gift of God all around you. *Rev Dan*



A time for grace and patience

September is the month when schools go back, harvest services are being planned, and the College of Bishops takes place. Yippee! Actually I'm not being sarcastic. Of course there's always a sense of this is a month when many of us feel 'back at work'. It can seem a busy month with lots to challenge us. However we do have some agency in how we approach the tasks of daily living, don't we?

So, for instance, at the College of Bishops this month, we shall do more work on 'Living in Love and Faith', the theology, social anthropology, biblical scholarship and scientific knowledge being considered as the Church reflects on issues of human identity, sexuality and marriage. I'm looking forward to it. And that's not being sarcastic either. You see it is not that this will be an easy topic, something which we can just all agree to but rather it will be an opportunity to meet together with one another in the presence of God. We will no doubt have some difficult conversations, grapple over imponderables, find ourselves feeling vulnerable but this is the stuff of life, and seeking to find God's way in a world which has little time for religious faith anymore.

The College meets in an Oxford college over a few days and it can sometimes seem rather distant from the everyday world in which we live. However we always celebrate Holy Cross day while we are there. The Collect for that day reminds us that "*the passion of thy blessed Son hast made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace*".

That surely means that life and peace can be found even **through** the experience of pain and death. In fact sometimes it's the only way to find them. Dealing with complex issues, tackling challenging tasks is not about finding the easiest and quickest route to an answer. Sometimes it requires much more from us and we need the grace and patience of the Christ who made Himself a sacrifice for us.

The following is the prayer we use on Holy Cross Day after we receive bread and wine together, perhaps we need to use it more as we face the challenge of seeking to live as men and women of God in His world today.

"O faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he come: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope."

The Right Revd Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton

COLLECTS AND READINGS

15th September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Exodus 32:7-14; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Collect: Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

22nd September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2: 1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Collect: Merciful God, your son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Our Pastoral Prayers

To include somebody on this prayer list please let Liz in the office know by 8am on Thursday, making sure the person you wish to be included wants their name in print.



Marriage

Couples preparing for marriage, including Tom and Charlotte and Daniel and Sian.

Baptisms:

We pray for all parents and godparents.

Those in need of our prayers:

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

For those who have died:

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Ken Lomax, Brenda Norwood



PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Take a moment today to pause and thank God for his blessings in your life

Monday:

For all children, teachers and staff in our schools as they continue to settle into the new academic year

Tuesday:

For all curates in the diocese of Bath and Wells

Wednesday:

For those from our community needing the support of the Foodbank

Thursday:

For all who are finding life difficult at the moment

Friday:

For all preparing for marriage at this time, particularly Charlotte and Tom to be married at East Huntspill today

Saturday:

For all with leadership responsibility during the vacancy

THE SINGING CHILDREN OF AFRICA

Wednesday 25th September

7pm

**St John's Church, Highbridge,
TA9 3HS**

The popular singing children of Africa are returning to perform here in Highbridge once again!

Entry is free. Donations greatly appreciated!



Help the environment and a local hospital

CRISP PACKET RECYCLING

A large cardboard box has been placed at the back of St John's to collect our empty crisp packets.

These can then be taken to Weston Hospital and sent for recycling. The hospital receives money for the packets they send for recycling.

Please do make use of this opportunity.

FOODBANK

Our local foodbank continues to need our support.

They are particularly in need of the following items

Tins of Meat, Toilet Rolls, Dog Food, Nappies (size 4) and Toiletries

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 28th September

8.30am

Tickets £4

Available from Chris Perry

01278 783753



HARVEST SUPPER & BINGO

Friday 11th October

Ploughman's supper and dessert served at 7pm

Followed by games of Bingo

For Tickets: Pat Burge 01278 788134

Parish office 01278 780633

Adults £6 5-16yrs £3 under 5's free
Extra charge for Bingo tickets payable on the night

CALENDAR

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

SEPTEMBER

Sun 15th Thirteenth after Trinity 9am Communion 3pm Communion & Tea

Tues 17th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 18th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 19th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Sun 22nd Fourteenth after Trinity 8am Communion 9.30am Communion

Tues 24th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 25th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

7pm Singing children of Africa in Church

Thurs 26th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Sat 28th 8.30am Men's Breakfast in church hall

Sun 29th TEAM SERVICE AT MARK *Please note there is no service at St John's today.

OCTOBER

Tues 1st 10am Toddlers in church hall

7.30pm Baptism Preparation

Wed 2nd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 3rd 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Sun 6th Sixteenth after Trinity 8am Communion 9.30am Communion

Tues 8th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 9th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 10th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 11th 7pm Harvest Supper and Bingo

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

Wednesday 9.30am – 2.30pm, Thursday 12 noon – 2.30pm, Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Term time only

Please ring in advance