

St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 22nd September

Dear Friends,

In the coming week – on **Wednesday 25 September at 7pm** - we are looking forward to welcoming the singing children from Africa to St John's for a concert. This is not the first time they have performed in the church, but I am assured that this really is an event not to be missed. They will be joined by children from Churchfield school who will also contribute to our evening. Music is one of the many ways we glorify God and we are blessed at St John's by a strong music ministry. We owe a debt of gratitude to Shirley Vickery-Mills for her willingness to use her skills to help us worship God in music. Thanks Shirley! While Wednesday is a concert rather than an act of worship, do not be surprised if the singing of the children transports you to a place of transcendence. I'll be there and I hope to see you too...

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

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.

29th September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-end

Collect: Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through 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, and those recently married, including Tom and Charlotte.

Baptisms:

We pray for all parents and godparents especially Lucy, Harry and Rosie

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:

Joyce Dunbavan

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Sharon James, Desmond Dyer

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

For all who face persecution because of their faith in Jesus

Monday:

For all with leadership responsibility during the vacancy

Tuesday:

For our new Area Dean Rev Richard Neill as he adjusts to his new responsibilities

Wednesday:

For the singing children of Africa performing this evening in St John's

Thursday:

For Little Angels as they meet this morning

Friday:

For Rev Sharon as she continues to settle into her new role in the Diocese of Salisbury

Saturday:

For all local businesses and traders



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!

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 28th September

8.30am

Tickets £4

Available from Chris Perry or
Martin 07860 624308



CALLING ALL KNITTERS



It's time to get those knitting needles out again as the pattern for this year's knitted gift is now available in Church or from the parish office



PLEASE NOTE

There is no service at St John's on Sunday 29 September. Please do join our friends in Mark at 10am.

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 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

Sun 13th Seventeenth after Trinity HARVEST 8am Communion 9.30am Family Communion

Tues 15th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 16th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

7.30pm PCC in church hall

Thurs 17th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

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