

St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Second Sunday of Epiphany 19th January 2020

Dear Friends,

As the month of January and the season of Epiphany unfolds, we are reminded of some of the early encounters from Jesus' ministry. Our reading from John's gospel today reminds us of the calling of the first disciples. I am always struck by the seemingly instant response of, in this case, Andrew, to the request to 'Come.' I wonder if sometimes we over-complicate evangelism and miss the simple opportunity to invite others to 'come and see.' Many from our community did come and see during Advent and Christmas and some may return. Everyone who came along was responding to an invitation. For some that invitation was from our posters, Signpost or on social media. For many, it will have been a personal invitation. Who could you invite to 'come and see' this epiphany? *Rev Dan*



A rich journey

'A cold coming we had of it
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey...'
T.S. Eliot's 'Journey of the Magi'

How many of us are making journeys over the turning of this new year? Perhaps it has been an opportunity to catch up with family or friends we haven't seen for a while. Perhaps for some of us, it's been about fun and relaxation, (although skiing doesn't appeal for either, for me!)

Perhaps some of those journeys have been disrupted by weather or illness. Or perhaps they've been punctuated by the plaintive cry, 'Are we there yet?' During winter months we are often seeing the journey as a 'means to an end' rather than something of value in itself. However travelling with others or meeting people on the way can make journeys so much richer.

On my windowsill at home sits a wooden cross with a shell attached. It's made from the stick my son used to walk the Camino de Santiago, one of the most popular of pilgrim paths in Europe. I'm not sure I have the legs to do it! Two of my sons have walked it from France to the coast of Spain, each on their own, but meeting strangers along the way who have become friends.

2020 is being marked by our Cathedrals as a year of pilgrimage. You will be hearing more from our Cathedral here in Wells as they invite us to share in pilgrimage with them. Journeying together gives opportunity for us to discover something new as we share in others' perspectives and experiences, not just our own. At this time of Epiphany we remember the journey of the wise men who travelled together to seek out something new. A star had appeared which indicated to them there was new learning to be had. And so they left the familiar and went to explore what was new.

So... what new thing might you wish to explore this year? Who might you travel with? And what might you do once you find it?

Wishing you a very special new year!

The Right Revd Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton

COLLECTS AND READINGS

19th January Second Sunday of Epiphany Isaiah 49.1-7; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

Collect: Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

26th January Third Sunday of Epiphany Isaiah 9.1-4; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23

Collect: God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

Baptisms:

We pray for all parents and godparents

Those in need of our prayers:

Margaret Moyle, Hazel, Christine Marston, Val & George Crawford, Maureen & Ian Thompson, Gloria and Ken Vivash, Pete, Brenda, Olive, Margaret Wall, Victoria Yassenko

For those who have died:

We pray for those who have recently died and their loved ones who grieve their loss.

Roger Bishop, Betty Montgomery

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Take a moment today to pause and thank God for something you are grateful for

Monday:

For those who are beginning their working week with worries or concerns

Tuesday:

For Bishop Peter, Bishop Ruth, Archdeacon Anne, our Area Dean Richard and Lay Dean Tim

Wednesday:

For the work of the Foodbank in our community and those who need to use the services it provides

Thursday:

For all with leadership responsibility and additional tasks during the vacancy

Friday:

For all who will attend and the practical arrangements for the whisky appreciation evening today

Saturday:

For our Deanery Synod as it meets this afternoon



Entry strictly by ticket only

ST JOHN'S CHURCH,
HIGHBRIDGE TA9 3HS

INVITES YOU TO A

WHISKY APPRECIATION EVENING

Friday 24th January 2020

7pm - 9.30pm

Tickets £12 per person*

Only 25 tickets available!

*Ticket holders
receive 5 x 2cl
samples; a
bonus dram and
a simple bread
and cheese
supper

Tickets available from the Parish Office or Rev Dan Crouch
stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com or 01278 780633
revdancrouch@gmail.com or 01278 325194



World Holocaust Day



A short service to commemorate World Holocaust Day will be held around the

Frank Foley statue

Market Street, Highbridge

at

12 Noon

on

Monday 27th January

The service will be conducted by local clergy and wreaths will be laid by the
Chairman of Sedgemoor District Council and the Mayor of Burnham &
Highbridge Town Council to mark the occasion

Week of Christian Unity 2020

Churches Together in Burnham and Highbridge are holding a joint service at St. Andrews Church, Burnham on Sunday 26th January at 6pm to celebrate the week of Christian unity. It is a great opportunity to join with our brothers and sisters in Christ to worship.

ALL WELCOME

A Service to
Bless the Light
at the end of
Epiphany as we
look towards
Easter

Sunday 2nd February
5pm

St John's Church, Highbridge

Highbridge Buggy Walk

Join us for a friendly walk, talk and play - perfect for mums, dads and children to have fun and make friends.

Starts 20th January 2020!

Where: Meet at YMCA Highbridge,
Huntspill Road

When: Mondays, 9.30-10.30am

Who: Suitable for children up to 4,
balance bikes and scooters
welcome!

Contact Hettie for more
information - text or call
07977 412481



CALENDAR

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

JANUARY

Sun 19th Second Sunday of Epiphany 9am Communion 3pm Communion & Tea

Tues 21st 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 22nd 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 23rd 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 24th 7pm Whisky Appreciation Evening in church hall

**Sun 26th Third Sunday of Epiphany 8am Communion 9.30am Communion
6pm Christian Unity service at St. Andrew's Burnham**

Mon 27th 12 Noon Holocaust Memorial service at the Frank Foley Statue, Highbridge

Tues 28th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 29th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 30th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

FEBRUARY

Sun 2nd Candlemas 8am Communion 9.30am Communion 5pm Blessing of Light service

Tues 4th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 5th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 6th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

**Sun 9th Third Sunday before Lent 8am Communion 9.30am Family Communion
10.45am Baptism Friends Meeting**

Tues 11th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 12th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

7.30pm PCC meeting – Nurture and Worship Focus

Thurs 13th 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