

# St John the Evangelist      Signpost Weekly

## Candlemas      2nd February 2020

Dear Friends,

As the season of Epiphany draws to a close with the celebration of Candlemas today, we find ourselves as a parish in a particularly significant place. A place that anticipates the future promise and the faithfulness of God as we await our next incumbent and explore our vision. This place is not entirely dissimilar to that which the nation of Israel found itself in 2000 years ago. The celebration of Candlemas remembers the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, where he was received by the faithful Simeon and Anna. Simeon's response to holding Jesus in his arms provides us with the beautiful Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:29-32). Simeon knows he is holding the much awaited and promised Messiah. As we continue together to seek God's vision for Highbridge we can place our trust in the God who is faithful and does fulfil his promises – though always in his own perfect timing! *Rev Dan*



## Pick up your Bible with a new joy

Martin Niemöller was a Lutheran Pastor, best known for his opposition to the Nazi party during the 1930's. As a consequence he was imprisoned between 1938 and 1945, first in the Sachsenhausen and secondly in the Dachau concentration camps. He was fortunate to survive these experiences and, on his release, became a pacifist and a committed campaigner for nuclear disarmament.

A former U Boat Commander, in his book, 'From U Boat to Pulpit', he wrote about what the Bible meant to him during his imprisonment which included years of solitary confinement. He wrote: 'The word of God was simply everything to me, comfort and strength, guidance and hope, master of my days and companion of my nights. The bread that kept me from starvation and the water of life which refreshed my soul. And even more, solitary confinement ceased to be solitary.' These extraordinary words remind me of the hymn 'Lord thy word abideth.'

The Bible is still the most published and the most read book in the world. What makes it unique however, is that the books of the Bible were inspired by the Spirit of God and is the place where Christ is found and proclaimed and where God speaks. And St Paul, writing about the scriptures (The Old Testament) said, 'For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.' (Romans 15:4)

As we come to Lent might I suggest that we pick up our Bibles with a new joy, with fresh eyes and with a renewed determination to spend time each day reading the Bible. If we do we will find, as Niemöller and countless other people before us have done, that the Bible is indeed the Word of Life, the pathway to Jesus and the doorway to salvation. If we are looking for comfort and strength, guidance and hope we can find all those things within its pages.

The Right Revd Peter Hancock

## COLLECTS AND READINGS

**2<sup>nd</sup> February Presentation of Christ Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-end; Luke 2.22-40**

**Collect:** Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

**Post Communion:** Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**9<sup>th</sup> February Third Sunday before Lent Isaiah 58.1-9a; 1 Corinthians 2.1-12; Matthew 5.13-20**

**Collect:** Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

**Post Communion:** Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where 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.

Tyron Allen

### Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Amanda Fox, Jean Cox, Frederick Diment, Annie Diment, Jean Cross,

## PRAYER FOCUS

### Sunday:

*For God's guidance as we continue to explore together his vision for Highbridge*

### Monday:

*At the start of a new working week for those at work and in school*

### Tuesday:

*For the parish profile group as it meets this evening*

### Wednesday:

*For the work of the Foodbank in our community*

### Thursday:

*For all with leadership responsibility and additional tasks during the vacancy*

### Friday:

*For those who serve us locally through our emergency services*

### Saturday:

*For the Bishop of Bath and Wells in his role as Safeguarding Bishop in the Church of England*



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



## PARISH LUNCH

**Saturday 15th February**

**St. John's Church Hall  
12.30pm to eat at 1pm**

**£7 per person to include  
Cottage pie & pudding**

**Tickets from Ian & Olga  
01278 785367**

### 200 Club

200 club subscriptions are now due.  
To renew your subscription or if you  
would like to join please speak to Ian  
Chedzey

## *Vacancy News*

1. Our Parish Survey received 87 responses!
2. The results have been collated and a hard copy is available at the back of St John's.
3. The survey results are also available to download on the parish website.
4. A timeline outlining the process of appointing a new incumbent with an approximate timescale is on the noticeboard at the back of St John's

## *Vision*

Over the next few weeks as we continue to work towards the appointment of a new incumbent we will be considering our vision. Below is a prayer, by David Adam, that you can use to guide your prayers for this process.

**Grant us a vision, Lord,  
To see what we can achieve  
To reach out beyond ourselves,  
To share our lives with others  
To stretch our capabilities,  
To increase our sense of purpose  
To be aware of where we can help,  
To be sensitive to your Presence  
To give heed to your constant call.  
Amen.**

## Children's Society

### Boxes

Children's society boxes are  
now due in.

Please hand to Ian Chedzey

If anyone is interested in having  
a children's society box please  
speak to Ian as he has a few  
spare.

# CALENDAR

## Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

## FEBRUARY

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Candlemas 8am Communion 9.30am Communion 5pm Blessing of Light service**  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> 10am Toddlers in church hall  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall  
Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

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

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> 10am Toddlers in church hall  
Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall  
7.30pm PCC meeting – Nurture and Worship Focus  
Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Little Angels in church hall  
Sat 15<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Parish Lunch in church hall

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday before Lent 9am Communion 3pm Communion & Tea**

Tues 18<sup>th</sup> 10am NO Toddlers in church hall (half term)  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall  
Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am NO Little Angels in church hall (half term)

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent 8am Communion 9.30am Communion**

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> 10am Toddlers in church hall  
Wed 26<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Said Communion (Ash Wednesday)  
& 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall  
Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

An advance notice

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April starting at 7pm with a light supper served from 6pm.

Please do put this date in your new diaries and calendars

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

**[stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com](mailto: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***