

St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Third Sunday of Epiphany 26th January 2020

Dear Friends,

Today we begin a three-week period where we will be prayerfully and carefully considering our vision as we continue the process of appointing a new vicar. The results of our parish survey have been collated and grouped for ease of reading and clarity and are available at the back of St John's today. We had 87 responses which is fantastic. 34 of these were online. But the important thing is that we now do something with the information we have gathered. Vision is important as it gives us a sense of God's purpose and direction in our activities and will give a potential incumbent a sense of where we might want to be journeying as a congregation and a community under their leadership and guidance. It is an exciting opportunity to help shape the future, so please do engage as you can.

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

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.

2nd 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.

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.

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

George Dickson, Barbara Reed, Donald Dale, Ann Ring, Barbara Stone, George Biston, Valerie Selby

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Ask God to inspire by his Holy Spirit our exploration of his vision for Highbridge

Monday:

For all who will gather to remember the work of Frank Foley and the victims of the Holocaust and genocide today

Tuesday:

For all who are working hard developing our parish profile

Wednesday:

For those who are waiting for important appointments, news or treatment at this time

Thursday:

For all with leadership responsibility and additional tasks during the vacancy

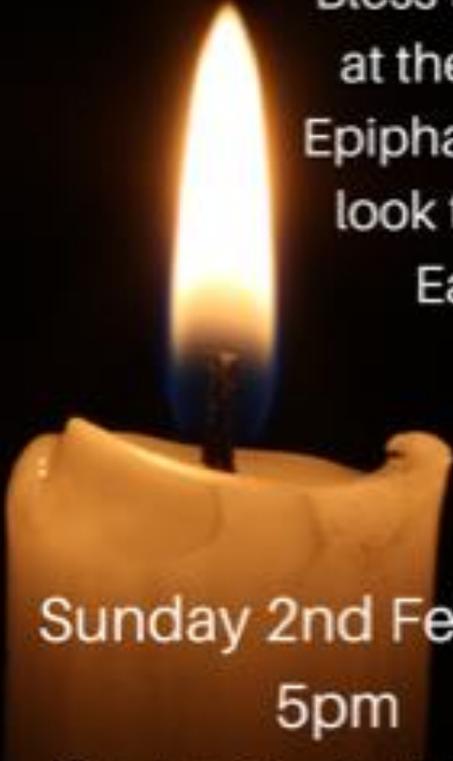
Friday:

For our country as we leave the EU and the various implications of this move

Saturday:

For visitors to our community this weekend





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

200 Club

200 club subscriptions are now due.

To renew your subscription or if you would like to join please speak to Ian Chedzey

An advance notice

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

Please do put this date in your new diaries and calendars



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

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

JANUARY

**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

Sun 16th Second Sunday before Lent 9am Communion 3pm Communion & Tea

Tues 18th 10am NO Toddlers in church hall (half term)

Wed 19th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 20th 10.30am NO Little Angels in church hall (half term)

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