

Dear Friends,

Our process of determining our vision and priorities based on the information in the parish survey and the congregational activities – ‘What is your favourite passage from the bible and why?’ and ‘What is your favourite hymn and why?’ – is well under way. You can see on the board at the back of St John’s how we have used your responses to identify themes and ideas that are influencing our vision conversations. Please do use a post-it note to identify your favourite hymn or passage today if you have not already been able to do so. Our service this morning will continue to build on this work, and I hope will also offer an opportunity to hear from our younger congregation members. It is an exciting time and this week the PCC will meet to agree the parish profile, appoint representatives to the interview panel and request advertising of the post of vicar. Please do pray for us as we complete this process on your behalf. *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

9th 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.

16th February Second Sunday before Lent Genesis 1.1-2.3; Romans 8.18-25; Matthew 6.25-end

Collect: Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; 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

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, 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:

Leslie Diment, Gordon Norris, Jean Timms, Dorothy Griffiths,

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

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

Monday:

For those who are struggling in our community at this time

Tuesday:

For Rev Dan and colleagues as they attend a training day in Wells

Wednesday:

For the PCC as we meet with a packed agenda including agreeing the parish profile

Thursday:

For the Huntspills and Mark as the closing date for applications for the role of Rector arrives

Friday:

For the teachers, staff and children in our schools as they reach half-term

Saturday:

For all with leadership responsibility and additional tasks during the vacancy





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**



**ASH WEDNESDAY
26TH FEBRUARY
9.30AM
COMMUNION SERVICE
WITH ASHES
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL**

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.**

Sunday 1st March

At the 9.30am service we will be joined by The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton.

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.

200 Club

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

CALENDAR

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

FEBRUARY

**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

Sat 15th 12.30pm Parish Lunch 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)

Sun 23rd Sunday before Lent 8am Communion 9.30am Communion

Tues 25th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 26th 9.30am Said Communion (Ash Wednesday)
& 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 27th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

MARCH

Sun 1st First Sunday of Lent 8am Communion 9.30am Communion with Bishop Ruth Worsley

Tues 3rd 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 4th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 5th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

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

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