

Dear Friends,

There is a lot of important information in this week's Signpost. Please do read Jo's **safeguarding** update below which contains important information. The way the church responds to issues of safeguarding simply must improve and that can begin at a local level. Please also take note of **Rev Sharon's** news at the bottom of this page and do hold her and Liz in your prayers over the coming weeks and months as they face further change and transition. Do also continue to pray for the person God is calling to be **our next priest** as our advert is published. This afternoon we are excited to gather as Phoebe is baptised and please do know that you are **all very welcome** to join us. We would love you to be a part of this special day. In amongst this activity, we have reached the second Sunday of Lent, so do try and find a moment to check in with yourself and reflect on how your Lent discipline is going so far...

Rev Dan



Please do collect
our information
sheet about holy
communion and
coronavirus

Safeguarding Update

There have been some changes in the Diocese Safeguarding team, and on training opportunities. Please look at the Bath and Wells website or contact me with any queries. I'm sharing a couple of items of interest below. Now that Susanne is in post, we have a full programme of safeguarding training across the Diocese starting in February. This training has been refreshed with new case studies and material, **so if you haven't attended church safeguarding in the past, or last completed a course more than 3 years ago, please attend again. If you volunteer in any role in the church**, or are a parent of a child who attends church, or you just want to understand more about safeguarding, we would invite you to complete the Safeguarding Awareness course which is available online at the Training Portal.

If you need a DBS check for your role in the Church, or if you are a PCC member or Parish Safeguarding Officer, or you come into contact with children and adults who may be vulnerable to abuse, once you have done the online Awareness course, you should complete the Safeguarding Foundation Training. You can sign up to a course near you on the Safeguarding Training page on the diocesan website.

www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/

If you do complete any training, please let me know for our parish records.

Please get in touch with any queries.

Thank you, Joanna

(I can be contacted on 01278 782792 or by email on joburridge69@btinternet.com)

Dear Friends,

As you all know, I have been working for the Diocese of Salisbury since September as their Diocesan Vocations Coordinator. I've been travelling around Dorset and Wiltshire meeting many people over the past six months and learning a lot about vocations work. However, sometimes life takes a different turn. Later this year I shall be leaving that role and returning to parish ministry when I become Rector to the Beckington Benefice, a group of villages just outside Frome. Into this new ministry I take all I have learned through my time with you all at St John's, as well as the new experiences from the past few months. I am grateful for regular updates on how you are all getting on and delighted to hear that Dan is doing so well. My prayers remain with you all as you seek to find a new vicar. My own licensing is likely to be in July, and I'll ensure you have the date in case anyone wants to make the journey across. Please keep Liz and myself in your prayers as we prepare for another move.

With my heartfelt prayer and fond regards,
Sharon.

COLLECTS AND READINGS

8th March Second Sunday of Lent Genesis 12.1-4a; Romans 4.1-5, 13-17; John 3.1-17

Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

15th March Third Sunday of Lent Isaiah 55. 1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13. 1-9.

Collect: Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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 Jamie Hayward and Emily Biddiscombe whose bans are published today.

Baptisms:

We pray for all parents and godparents, especially for Phoebe, Martha, Dan and Sarah as Phoebe is baptised today

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 Yasenko

For those who have died:

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

Peter Morris, Karen Fisher, Geoff Young

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Patricia Heal, Maurice Maynard



PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

Pause and be thankful that God sent his son into the world not to condemn us, but to save us because he loves us all

Monday:

For the ongoing situation with regard to coronavirus

Tuesday:

For all who will gather today to celebrate the life of Geoff Young

Wednesday:

For the PCC as it meets this evening to discuss various significant matters, including the ongoing vacancy

Thursday:

For all with leadership responsibility and additional tasks during the vacancy

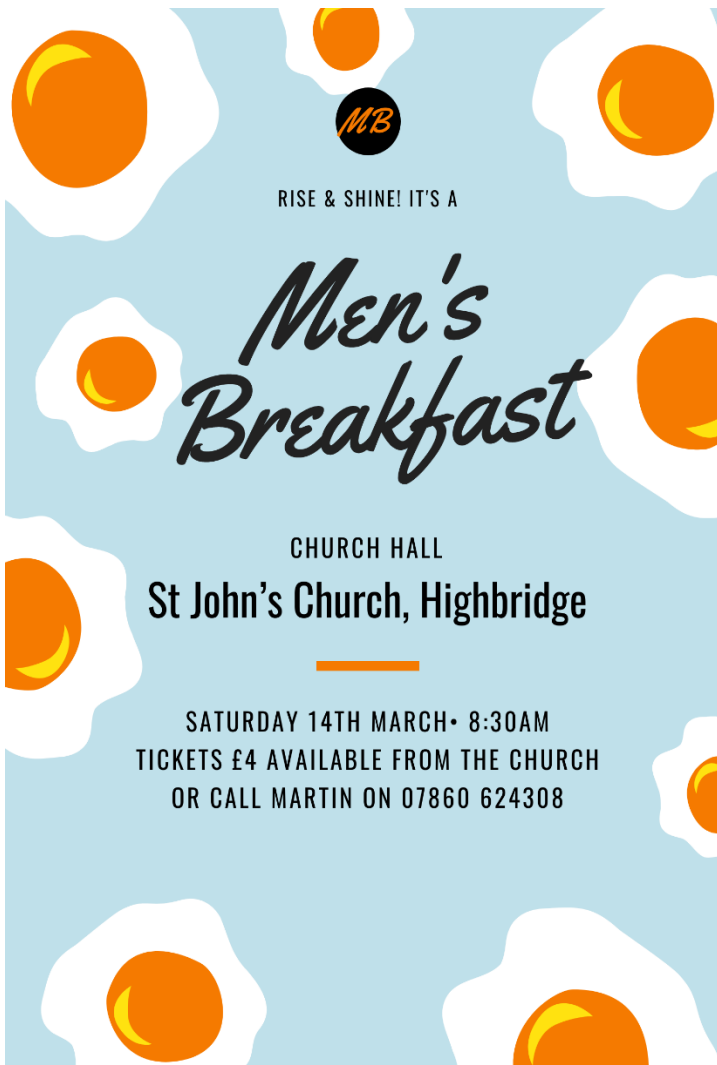
Friday:

For those gathering for Friday prayers

Saturday:

For the person God is calling to be our next priest

Dan and Sarah would love to invite all at St John's to Phoebe's baptism this afternoon at 3pm. There will be cake afterwards in the hall. **All are welcome.** If you do intend to join us, please could we ask that you park in Churchfield school (access will be available from 2.30pm) so church grounds can be used by those from our families who struggle with mobility issues.



Everyday Questions

Here are another seven questions from the Bishop's Lent Challenge resource that you could use to generate conversation this Lent.

We have a pack of cards if you would like to borrow them for your event, or you can use the questions below over the course of your week. We will post seven in Signpost in each week of Lent. If you use them, let us know how you got on!

1. What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen?
2. How would you describe God?
3. How would the person who knows you best describe you?
4. If you could do one thing to help reverse climate change, what would you do?
5. What gives you hope?
6. Would you rather do a well paid boring job or the job of your dreams for little pay?
7. Should everyone in the world have equal access to the same things?

Churchfield After-School Club

Churchfield have asked if the churches in Highbridge would be interested in re-establishing a Christian after-school club. If you could help, please let Rev Dan know by Monday 16th March.

Easter Fair

Any donations for the Easter fair will be greatly received and if you can help on the day setting up, on a stall or clearing down

Please speak to Pat, Ian or Liz.

CALENDAR

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

MARCH

Sun 8th Second Sunday of Lent 8am Communion 9.30am Family Communion 3pm Baptism

Tues 10th 10am Toddlers in church hall
1pm Funeral of Geoff Young (former churchwarden) at Sedgemoor Crematorium being conducted by Rev Mark Bond

Wed 11th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall
7.30pm PCC meeting in church hall

Thurs 12th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 13th 5.30pm Prayer stations of the Cross in church

Sat 14th 4pm Highbridge Festival in Church

Sun 15th Third Sunday of Lent 9am Communion 3pm Communion & Tea

Tues 17th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 18th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 19th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 20th 5.30pm Prayer stations of the Cross in church

Sun 22nd Mothering Sunday 8am Communion 9.30am Family Communion

Tues 24th 10am Toddlers in church hall

Wed 25th 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 26th 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 27th 5.30pm Prayer stations of the Cross in church

Sat 28th 2pm Baptism

Sun 29th Fifth Sunday of Lent Team service 10am East Huntspill 1.30pm Baptism

Tues 31st 10am Toddlers in church hall

APRIL

Wed 1st 9.30am Said Communion & 10.00am Foodbank Listening Place in church hall

Thurs 2nd 10.30am Little Angels in church hall

Fri 3rd 5.30pm Prayer stations of the Cross in church

Sat 4th 10am – 12 noon Easter Fair in church hall

Please see the additional sheet concerning our approach to holy communion and Coronavirus. This is based on guidance from the national church and the diocese and will be updated as we are guided and informed.

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