

St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Pentecost 31st May 2020

Dear Friends,

Today the church celebrates Pentecost – the sending of the Holy Spirit. It comes fifty days after Easter and is often seen as the birthday of the church. It is usually a time of great celebration and joy. Today, for obvious reasons, it rightly looks and feels different. I imagine many of you have experienced a birthday, or that of family or friends during this time of lockdown which has been different. Today the church marks Pentecost in a different way but remembers that the sending of the Spirit shows us that Jesus is faithful to his promises. Many images are used for the Spirit, some of these are identified in the reading from Acts including the wind or breath and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit is powerful, and this power is available to each of us. At a time where we have great uncertainty in our world, difficulty trusting authority, fear of an invisible enemy, it is good to be reminded that God is faithful, and **God is with us.**

Rev Dan



Recognise the one who stands beside you

‘Stay alert’ is the message as we ‘ease out of lockdown’. We know that for some there is little ease as we begin to re-engage with a world that is still fearful of Covid-19 and uncertain about its future. The requirement to ‘stay alert’ is to encourage us to watch out for signs of the virus and protect ourselves and others as necessary.

We’ve just celebrated Pentecost, often recognised as the birthday of the Church. Jesus’ message to his followers as he left them to return to his Father was that they were to ‘stay alert’, not to guard against something fearful to come but rather to be watchful for the Spirit that would free them from fear. It didn’t mean that there weren’t still physical dangers to face but rather that their spiritual lives should grow in boldness.

We have seen much courage exhibited throughout this crisis to date. Key workers who have continued to serve us day by day even whilst most of us have remained at home. The NHS has quite rightly been applauded and appreciated at this time **and** there are so many more.

I’ve been especially impressed by our schools and their teams who have largely been open throughout this period to be provide care for key worker families and vulnerable children. Even at weekends and during this past half term holiday they have been tirelessly supporting their local communities. Staying alert to the needs of our young, they have shown their commitment and care. I want to express my huge gratitude to them!

As we move into June we may be seeing more children returning to schools having been home-schooled for a time. This will not be without fear for some and a need to be especially alert to physical dangers. Whatever the situation we find ourselves to be in at this point, we are reminded that we have a Comforter, an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who strengthens and encourages our faith even at times of doubt and anxiety.

Whether still at home and isolated or beginning a return to wider community life, may you find yourself being alert for and recognising the one who stands alongside you, the Spirit, who is friend, guardian and comforter.

With every good wish

Bishop Ruth

COLLECTS AND READINGS

31st May Pentecost Acts 2.1-21; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 7.37-39

Collect: Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion:

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7th June Trinity Sunday Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end; 2 Corinthians 13.11-end; Matthew 28.16-20

Collect: Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion: Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, 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 and those recently married, also for those who have had to postpone their special day due to current circumstances.

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, 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.

Steven Lynham

Ken Chapman

Herbert Tripp

Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Michael Hicks, Audrey Fern, Violet Westney



PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

For wisdom for all in positions of authority at this time

Monday:

For all local businesses which are re-opening or preparing to reopen shortly

Tuesday:

For the new headteacher at Churchfield, Ross Minton as he begins his role at this challenging time

Wednesday:

For schools across our country as they prepare to welcome a small number of children back to school, including Churchfield and others in our area

Thursday:

For all with additional leadership responsibility during the vacancy

Friday:

For all who are feeling isolated and alone at this time

Saturday:

For all affected by COVID-19, those who have contracted the virus, those who have lost their lives and all who are grieving, worried or anxious

Every Wednesday at 10.30am Bishop Peter or Bishop Ruth will be live streaming a mid-week Eucharist service via the diocese Facebook page. It will also be available on the homepage of the diocese website for those that don't have Facebook.

www.bathandwells.org.uk

www.facebook.com/bathandwells

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has also established a listening chaplaincy phonenumber, while The Church of England centrally has established Daily Hope, offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The details for these are below:



0330 229 1700
8am-11pm
7 days a week



0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

COVID-19 PRAYER

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

If you need any practical help or assistance during the Coronavirus pandemic there is a designated helpline and email address available.

01278 787852

burnhamandhighbridge@gmail.com

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

stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com by 8am on Thursday

IN LIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE CONCERNING SOCIAL DISTANCING LIZ WILL BE WORKING FROM HOME.

Please email stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com or ring Rev Dan on 01278 325194

DAILY PRAYER LIVE ONLINE

www.facebook.com/stjohnshighbridge/



MORNING PRAYER
9AM WEDS & FRI

EVENING PRAYER
9PM TUES & THURS

JOIN US LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR A SHORT TIME OF PRAYER TO FIND RHYTHM, STILLNESS & PEACE IN OUR DAY.

Download a service sheet from
www.stjohnshighbridge.org.uk or listen & pray

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753