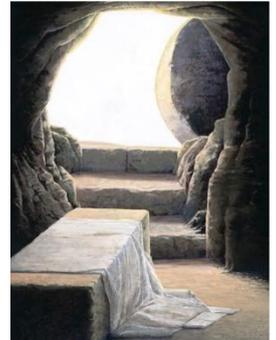


St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Fourth Sunday of Easter 3rd May 2020

Dear Friends,

I don't know how you are finding lockdown, but I have to say that for me this has been the most challenging week so far. Perhaps it is the change in weather and the need to remain indoors rather than out in the sunshine, or perhaps it is simply the length of time we have been in this situation and how the news is so hard to hear. I've had moments this week where I've felt down, lost, close to tears and overwhelmingly tired. I'm reminded that we are all in the same storm (though we must recognise we are not in the same boat; our boats look and feel different) and I share how I've felt to remind us all that **it is okay to feel down**. If that is how you feel at the moment, that is alright. It may be that you are coping just fine, and this is okay too. As I've experienced this rollercoaster of emotions, I've been grateful for the rhythm of prayer that I'm leading online each day. It hasn't always helped, but it has often reminded me that I'm not alone which has been such a great comfort at this time of uncertainty. *Rev Dan*



A time to 'Love our neighbours as ourselves'

I wonder - are you someone who gets everything ready long before you need to; jobs done well before time; and someone who is never late for anything? Or are you someone who leaves things to the last minute; works right up to the deadline; and catches the bus or train with moments to spare? Or maybe you are somewhere in the middle?

One of the things that Bishop Ruth and I enjoy doing is writing these articles each month for parish magazines and newsletters. It gives us a chance to keep in touch with people across the diocese and to share the things that are in our hearts and minds as the year unfolds. The only drawback is that we have to write these articles well in advance, so that they reach magazine editors and church administrators in good time. The problem is of course that things may change in all sorts of ways between us writing them and you reading them. I am particularly conscious of that this month, as we are in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. Things are changing very fast and it is hard to know what the next few weeks will bring. That inevitably brings with it a certain degree of uncertainty and some of us, especially those who are isolated and cut off, may be feeling anxious for ourselves or for others.

My hope throughout this time of 'lockdown' is that although some of us may have felt physically isolated from each other, that we have not felt socially or spiritually isolated. Indeed, I have been truly amazed and encouraged by all the stories I have heard of people caring for each other, phoning each other and going shopping for those who cannot get out to buy the food they need. At this stage none of us knows quite how and when this virus will eventually be brought under control. However, I do hope that when we get to the stage that restrictions can be safely lifted and we begin to go out and shop as we did before, that things will be different. Many of us have had difficulty buying the food we wanted. Some of us have had to rely on others for our daily needs. We have had to learn new ways to pray and keep in touch with others in our churches and communities. We have had to trust, hope, and look out for our neighbours, especially those who are particularly vulnerable. We have been humbled by the courage and dedication of those who work in the NHS and care homes and all who as 'key workers' have worked tirelessly to look after and provide for us.

Jesus taught us to 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind' and 'to love our neighbours as ourselves'. My hope and prayer is that as we emerge from this pandemic that we and our communities may be a more compassionate, more generous, more grateful. And may we all have discovered what it is to know in a deeper way the peace and the presence of God.

May the peace and the joy of the Risen Lord be with you. **The Right Revd Peter Hancock - Bishop of Bath and Wells**

COLLECTS AND READINGS

3rd May Easter 4 Acts 2.42-end; 1 Peter 2.19-end; John 10.1-10

Collect: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

10th May Easter 5 Acts 7. 55-end; 1 Peter 2.2-10; John 14. 1-14

Collect: Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and forever.

Our Pastoral Prayers

To include somebody on this prayer list please let Liz in the office know by Sam 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, 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.

David Pusill
John Jackson

Those whose anniversary falls this week:



PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

For those you know who do not yet have a relationship with Jesus

Monday:

For all key workers who are serving us and providing for our needs at this time

Tuesday:

For all children in our community as they continue to face the disruptions of lockdown

Wednesday:

For all families in our community who are struggling

Thursday:

For all who are on the frontline of our NHS and for those they are treating

Friday:

For Bishop Peter and Bishop Ruth, and Archdeacon Anne

Saturday:

For all who are engaging with our rhythm of daily prayer, either by joining us online, or praying at home at the same time

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

We are having some problems with the **laptop** used by Liz for her work as parish administrator.

We are doing our best to resolve these issues, but during lockdown this is incredibly challenging.

This may mean there is a short delay in responding to emails or calls and our weekly Signpost may temporarily move to a fortnightly sheet. Please bear with us.

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

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

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

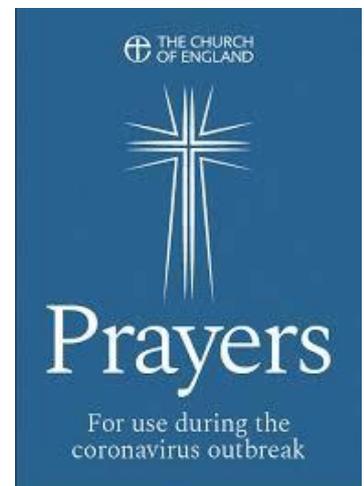
01278 787852

burnhamandhighbridge@gmail.com

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

Rev Dan will be writing a letter to every household on our electoral roll in the coming few weeks. The letter will also include a copy of the recent booklet produced by the Church of England (see picture to the right) for your use at home



Rev Dan is beginning to think about how, after this extended period of absence, we might both mourn and celebrate when we come together again as a church whenever that may be. He already has some thoughts around using candles from our homes to light our Paschal candle...

If you have any thoughts or ideas then please do let Rev Dan know –
revdancrouch@gmail.com or 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**