

St John the Evangelist      Signpost Weekly  
Third Sunday after Trinity      28th June 2020

Dear Friends,

You will have probably heard in the news this week that from Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> places of worship can open for small services. There are comments from our Bishops, Peter and Ruth, and Rev Dan included here in this week's Signpost. All of us in positions of leadership here at St John's welcome this news, but at the time of writing we are awaiting further guidance from the government. With that in mind, we can say with certainty that St John's **will not be holding a service on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>**. There are practical reasons behind this decision, but it is also not something we wish to rush. We want to take appropriate space and time to consider how we might return. We want to recognise that for many a return to the building is not yet possible. We want to try and work out if and how we might continue an online presence. We want to continue to care for one another. As soon as we are able to share our thoughts with you, our church family, we will.

*Rev Dan*



### A message from Bishop Peter and Bishop Ruth

We welcome the announcement from the Prime Minister that public worship in our churches can resume again from 4 July, where that is possible locally and subject to physical distancing guidelines. It will bring joy to many but even as we look forward to it, we remember those for whom Covid-19 has brought bereavement, grief, suffering and great hardship. Christians have sought to minister and support, both through practical means and through constant prayer, all those in need while our church buildings have been closed. Reopening our churches for services will mean bereaved families will be able to plan the memorial services they so desperately need in order to help them grieve, and those who wish to celebrate their marriages will once again be able to do so, in smaller numbers. As the Church, we grieve with them and we rejoice with them.

This guidance is permissive and not prescriptive, which means churches do not have to return immediately to holding services from 4 July, and there will be some churches who are not able to do so yet. We are expecting guidance from the government and the Church of England on how churches should follow physical distancing, as well as address concerns like singing, in the next few days. This will be published as soon as possible.

As we move towards being able to come together again, we thank God for the decline of the virus in this country, and we pray for all those who have died, those who are grieving, and those who are still caring for the sick. We pray for those parts of the world where people are still falling sick in great numbers.

Thank you to all those who have ensured that despite closed doors, the Church has reached further and deeper, through online worship and through practical action, than we can remember.

## COLLECTS AND READINGS

**28<sup>th</sup> June 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity Genesis 22.1-14; Romans 6.12-end; Matthew 10.40-end**

**Collect:** God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Post Communion:** O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Genesis 24.34-38,42-49, 58-end; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end**

**Collect:** Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Post Communion:** Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son 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, 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 Yasenko

### 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:

Bertram (Roy) Porter, Margaret (Pat) Carpenter, Lawrence Lillycrop



## PRAYER FOCUS

### Sunday:

*For all who were due to be ordained Deacon today whose ordinations have been postponed to September*

### Monday:

*For those who are currently unemployed and seeking work*

### Tuesday:

*For all who are facing an uncertain future*

### Wednesday:

*For local businesses in Burnham and Highbridge as many prepare to reopen from 4<sup>th</sup> July*

### Thursday:

*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*

### Friday:

*For the Yr 6 children at Churchfield who are having a Zoom service on their last day at the school*

### Saturday:

*For Bishop Peter, Bishop Ruth and Archdeacon Anne*

## Who's Who at St John's:

**Vicar:** Vacant

**Curate:** Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

**Churchwarden:** Chris Perry 783753

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](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/bathandwells](https://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**



Rev Dan is taking a break from **Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> until Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>**.

This means that we will not be producing a Signpost for Sunday 5 July and our online Morning and Evening prayer services will pause during this week.

During this time if you have a particular concern or question regarding parish matters, please contact Chris Perry on 01278 783753.

If you need a priest then please contact the Area Dean Rev Richard Neill on 01934 713566.

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

[stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com) or ring Rev Dan on 01278 325194

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](mailto:burnhamandhighbridge@gmail.com)

**DAILY PRAYER LIVE ONLINE**  
[www.facebook.com/stjohnshighbridge/](https://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](http://www.stjohnshighbridge.org.uk) or listen & pray



## Calling all knitters



It's time to get those knitting needles out again as the pattern for this year's Christmas knitted gift is now available.

If you or anyone you know would like to knit for us and would like the pattern please email the parish office [stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com)



As a church we welcome the news that from Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> places of worship will be able to reopen for services for a limited and managed number of people while observing social distancing.

We have already been planning and thinking about this time, and **we are in no rush to get back into the building.** It will not be possible to return to the way things were before the pandemic (which, may I add, is ongoing). We need to take our time, and take great care, in our decision-making. When we do reopen it is likely that worship will look and feel very different to our experience prior to the pandemic. **What we can say with certainty at this stage is that we will not be holding a service on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>.**

We also want to ensure we continue to place our love for God, our love for ourselves, and our love for each other at the heart of all our decisions - and that may mean that we delay reopening for Sunday worship until it is safe and possible for more of our church family to gather together.

The PCC and Rev Dan will work together in the coming days and weeks to determine a plan for moving forward. When we are able, we will share this plan with you. Rev Dan

**For prayer requests or if you need any further support please contact our curate Rev Dan Crouch [revdancrouch@gmail.com](mailto:revdancrouch@gmail.com) or 01278 325194**

**Welcome to St John's!**  
**The church building is now open for private prayer at the following times:**

**Thursday 10am - 12noon**  
**Sunday 2pm - 4pm**

**The building will be supervised at these times. Please follow the social distancing and hygiene guidance and respect others.**

**The church in Highbridge has always been here to serve the community and we continue to seek to serve you. Please do be in touch if you need to. We will help where and if we can.**