

# St John the Evangelist      Signpost Weekly

## Trinity Sunday 7th June 2020

Dear Friends,

I heard on the radio this week that the only thing we can say with any certainty about 2020 is that everyone who was asked in 2015 where they thought they would be in five years' time got the answer to that question wrong! None of us could have predicted how these first months of this year would unfold. In the last week we have been reminded of the sin of racism after the murder of George Floyd. This tragic and brutal event forces us to look closer to home at racism in our own country, the Church of England, and in us ourselves. Ignorance cannot be used as an excuse. We have a responsibility, as Christians, even in the mainly white town of Highbridge and the surrounding areas, to speak out and act on matters of injustice. This is deeply challenging. On this Trinity Sunday, we can take some small comfort from the God we pray to (Father), the God we pray with (Jesus) and the God we pray in (Spirit). The triune God who is a God of justice and fairness. *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

**7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**14<sup>th</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity** Genesis 18.1-15; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8(9-23)

**Collect:** God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.

**Post Communion:** Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of 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 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 (Mick) Tripp

John Stacey

### Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Tricia Clipstone



## PRAYER FOCUS

### Sunday:

*For those who are different to us and facing persecution because of those differences*

### Monday:

*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*

### Tuesday:

*For the patients and staff at Weston Hospital as they face considerable challenges*

### Wednesday:

*For all who work in care homes at this time, particularly those in our local area*

### Thursday:

*For all key workers who continue to serve us in various ways*

### Friday:

*For all with additional leadership responsibility during the vacancy*

### Saturday:

*For local businesses who are struggling and facing an uncertain future*

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**



**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](mailto:burnhamandhighbridge@gmail.com)

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

### 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

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

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753