

St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 13th Sept 2020

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing the government have just announced a slight change in the law regarding 'social gatherings.' While it currently seems these changes do not include gathering for worship, it is a loud reminder that this virus, about which we know relatively little, is still very much with us and is a significant part of our lives. We are living in a time of great uncertainty and that is hard. You may be feeling unsure about returning to church. Please feel no pressure to return if you're not ready, and please rest assured that our churchwarden Chris and I, alongside the PCC, will ensure that we only make decisions based on the safety of you our congregation and the wider community. The post communion prayer today offers a good reminder of the goals of a community gathered in the name of Jesus. With God's help we want to remain faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart. This is a fantastic prayer that I will be taking into the week ahead, why not join me?

Rev Dan



A letter from Bishop Peter

I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words.

What is an unusual experience for me however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: 'When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I'd been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded - for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.'

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you,
Bishop Peter

COLLECTS AND READINGS

13th September 14th Sunday after Trinity Exodus 14.19-end; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

Collect: Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

20th September 15th Sunday after Trinity Exodus 16.2-15; Philippians 1.21-end; Matthew 20.1-16

Collect: Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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 Friday, 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.

Elizabeth Nicklin
Helen Duckett



Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Joyce Dunbavan, Derek Pope

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

For the other churches of various denominations in our area

Monday:

For our country and community as new guidelines come into force regarding social gatherings

Tuesday:

For Martin, Hannah, Aidan, and Amy

Wednesday:

For all who work for the NHS in hospitals, GP surgeries and in the community

Thursday:

For Bishop Peter as he undergoes treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia, and anyone known to us who is ill at this time

Friday

For Jade, the new minister in training at Hope Baptist Church

Saturday:

For businesses in our community, especially those who are struggling at this time

Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwarden: Chris Perry 783753

The Church building is open for private prayer every Thursday

10am – 2pm

The building will not be supervised at this time. Please follow the social distancing and hygiene guidance and respect others.



Worship has now resumed here at St. John's.

Every Sunday at 9.30am

Please enter through the south door, hand sanitiser is available at the door and we please ask you to wear a mask unless exempt.

The 8am service is returning from Sunday 13 September 2020 and will probably initially be held twice each month. Chairs will be used at the front which can be removed and quarantined before the 9.30 service.

BROKEN CHAINS CHARITY

Broken Chains, when we launch, is going to be a charity supporting children who suffer from Parental Substance misuse. We hope that Broken Chains will combine Christian values and cutting-edge research to deliver a much-needed service in Somerset.

We have a group of trustees with great experience and we are looking to add to that. We are in need of a treasurer and someone with legal expertise to join our board.

If you might be interested in having a conversation and finding out more about our vision and plans please contact Andrew Deane-Williams the CEO of Broken Chains via email brokenchainsuk@outlook.com

OFFICE OPENING

The office is now open again after the summer break. Liz will continue to work from home for the month of September as the church hall is being hired by Churchfield School Nursery due to their building work not being completed ready for the start of the new term.

From September the office has new working hours

Wednesday 9.30am – 2.45pm

Friday 9.30am -2.45pm

Term time only

To submit an article for the signpost weekly please email:

stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com by 8am on Friday

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



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

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

Lamentation to Hope



In collaboration with Wells Cathedral there will be an online service to remember all those who have died during the Covid pandemic.

Led by Bishop Ruth and the Dean of Wells, families of the bereaved are invited to send in names of those whom they mourn, and candles will be lit and their names read out.

The service will be available to watch on the Wells Cathedral website (wellscathedral.org.uk) and on the website of the Diocese of Bath and Wells (bathandwells.org.uk) from Wednesday 30 September.

Those who wish the names of their loved ones to be included should send them by email to comms@bathwells.anglican.org by Monday September 21.

A message from our incoming Vicar, Reverend Martin Little, and his family.

Dear St John's,

Hello! Following the Archdeacon of Wells' announcement last week, I wanted to write a personal note to say how very much I am looking forward to moving to Highbridge and beginning a new ministry as your Vicar. With much prayer and thought all round, we are all trusting that God's will has been done. Can I say a great big 'thank you' for all the work you have put into this process, especially to Rev Dan, Churchwarden Chris and many others who have guided you through the vacancy. I will try my very best, God being my helper, to live up to the trust you have placed in me!

Those not on the panel will no doubt be wondering who on earth this mystery person is! So, a word or two about myself and my family. I am Scottish by birth, but have lived in England for many years. My wife Hannah is a Somerset lass and grew up in Somerton. We have moved around a lot over the last few years, and I trained in Durham before taking up my curacy in Clevedon, where we currently live. We're really looking forward to being a bit more settled when we move to be with you. I've been in church ministry for many years, with a background in youth work and music. Coming to Highbridge as a first-time incumbent, I will have much to learn, but I am very ready and willing!

Hannah works in Bristol and is an Archivist at Clifton Suspension Bridge. Her work is most interesting - please feel free to ask her about it! We have two children: Aidan who will be 8 in November, and Amy who turns 7 in a couple of weeks! Some of you met them on our visit day (bringing them wasn't planned but it turned out for the best!)

They are very excited about their new house and are already plotting where to put the trampoline!

In discussion with the Archdeacon and the Bishop we hope to agree a date soon for my licensing. This is at least partially dependent on moving schools. We would really value your prayers for Aidan and Amy to get school places (ideally at Churchfield) and for all this entails. So I beg your patience for just a little while longer while this is arranged.

Perhaps that's enough about me for now. If you would like to write to me informally, I would be delighted to hear from you. My email address is: bryanmartinlittle@gmail.com

Every blessing

Martin, Hannah, Aidan and Amy

