

# St John the Evangelist      Signpost Weekly

## Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity      6th Sept 2020

Dear Friends,

We have reached September and the start of a new academic year! I don't know how August was for you, but for me it had a very different feel. Rather than a quiet month, it was a month of huge work and preparation which enabled some of us to return to the church building for worship and also when we interviewed and appointed a new Vicar for the parish! Quite a busy month in fact. We are learning and adjusting our services each week and I thank those of you who have attended for your willingness to embrace the differences in our worship. Those of you not yet ready or able to join us are at the forefront of our thoughts and prayers as we gather, and please remember there is no rush. Please do read the message from Reverend Martin Little and his family on the back cover of this Signpost and do be praying for them as they prepare to make the move to Highbridge. Further information will follow when we have it. The future, as ever, is unknown and a little scary, but there is also cause for excitement as we look forward with expectancy to new opportunities and new possibilities.

*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

**6<sup>th</sup> September 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Exodus 12.1-14; Romans 13.8-end; Matthew 18.15-20**

**Collect:** Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Post Communion:** God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**13<sup>th</sup> September 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.

Helen Duckett

### Those whose anniversary falls this week:

Michael Pope



## PRAYER FOCUS

### Sunday:

*For unity in our church as some of us worship in the building while others worship at home.*

### Monday:

*For the children in our local primary schools as they return today and for all teachers and staff*

### Tuesday:

*For our churchwarden Chris, and retired minister Lynne, as they take a much-needed break this week*

### Wednesday:

*For the work of the Foodbank in our community*

### Thursday:

*For Bishop Peter as he undergoes treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia and Bishop Ruth as she takes on greater responsibility in the diocese*

### Friday

*For Martin, Hannah, Aidan and Amy*

### Saturday:

*For the community of Highbridge that as a church we are seeking to serve*

## 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.

**We hope the 8am service will be able to return from Sunday 13 September 2020** and will probably initially be held twice each month. Rev Dan will keep us regularly updated.

## Vacancy Update

Following the recent interviews and the recommendation of the Parish representatives, we are pleased to announce that the Bishop has appointed the **Reverend Martin Little** to the post of Vicar of the Benefice of Highbridge.

Please hold Martin in your prayers as he prepares to begin a new ministry among us.

We look forward to the arrival of Martin, Hannah and their family in the Benefice and details of a Service of Welcome and Institution will be announced in due course.

## **DAILY PRAYER LIVE ONLINE**

[www.facebook.com/stjohnshighbridge/](http://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

## **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 now 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](mailto:stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com) by 8am on Friday



## **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)

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)

## 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 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