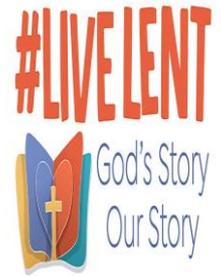


St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly

Second Sunday of Lent 28th February 2021

Dear Friends,

In our world today it can feel hard to be a follower of Jesus. There are so many options available to us and so many demands on our lives. We have seen changes in our culture which have turned Sunday into another day in the working week, and it can feel hard to find the time for God. Our gospel reading for the second Sunday of Lent reminds us of a key element of following Jesus. **Honesty**. It is encouraging to notice that Jesus works with those who fall short of his demands. Peter is the prime example of this, having seen Jesus transfigured on the mountain and encouraging them to stay there under shelter, then recognising Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and now finding himself accused of being alongside Satan is his inability to see the truth Jesus is sharing. Peter is a very human disciple, but at the same time he was prepared to always be honest with Jesus. This is a wonderful reminder that the community Jesus was forming was encouraged to be honest with him. Jesus wants us to be honest with him. He knows that to be a disciple is hard work. When he shares his challenge to 'take up our cross' he, who in taking up his cross takes up ours too, knows what he is asking of us. All he wants from us in return is our honesty. *Rev Dan*



Please see the note on page 3 from Chris Perry regarding the Zoom details for Reverend Martin Little's online licensing

Pay Loving Attention

With the Lenten Season well under way, I wonder how it is going for you? I always anticipate Lent with a slight feeling of having to brace myself. Come on make an effort in something! If I am going to give something up don't just make it an exercise in self-improvement, how is it going to help others? If I am going to do something positive what will be its long-term effect? It is all too easy to 'over think' the whole exercise.

Once the season is underway I begin to appreciate it. But in the end it should be about paying attention to God. I am always struck by the end of the story of the temptations in the wilderness. Jesus refuses to be a cheap miracle worker to benefit himself, and refuses to follow the route to worldly power and status. He faced temptation by stripping away all the necessities of life and knew deep hunger. At the end of this exhausting wrestle with his vocation the Gospel tells us "...suddenly angels came and waited on him." (Matthew 4:10)

Whatever Lenten discipline you are following, perhaps the #Live Lent course, or a local study group, a focussed effort to support others or a form of self-denial (or all of them!), may it bring a greater focus on God. There were those who ministered to Jesus in the Gospel stories. The angels in the wilderness, the woman who anointed him, Simon who carried his cross for example. We might not be able to do those things for him, but we can pay loving attention.

When we emerge from the austerity and effort of Lent, which has had an even more austere aspect in Lockdown, we come to the bright hope of Easter. We know in the Risen Christ the same relief that Jesus knew from the Angels. As we offer our love to Him, His love for us is always returned.

May the blessing of the Risen Christ be with you.

Nigel Stock
Assistant Bishop

COLLECTS AND READINGS

28th February 2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Romans 4.13-end; Mark 8.31-end

Collect: Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7th March 3rd Sunday of Lent Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22

Collect: Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion: Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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, including those who have had to postpone their service due to current circumstances.

Those in need of our prayers:

Margaret Moyle, Hazel, Christine Marston, Val & George Crawford, Maureen & Ian Thompson, Pete, Brenda, Olive, Victoria Yassenko, Bishop Peter Hancock, Gloria Vivash, Audrey Lomax, Tony Webb

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:

Marina Young



Who's Who at St John's:

Vicar: Vacant

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwardens:

Chris Perry 783753

Jenny Dolan 785935

PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday:

For Reverend Chris Judson on her first Sunday with the Huntspills' and Mark

Monday:

For Martin, Hannah, Aidan and Amy as they continue to prepare to join us

Tuesday:

For all involved locally in the distribution of COVID vaccinations

Wednesday:

For the work of the foodbank in Highbridge, Burnham and the surrounding areas.

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 those countries in our world where Christians are persecuted for their beliefs, thinking particularly of North Korea

Saturday:

For all local businesses who have felt the effects of our ongoing lockdown and face an uncertain future

As a consequence of the national lockdown our church buildings are once again closed for worship.

St John's is, however, open for unsupervised private prayer at the following times:

Thursday 10am – 2pm

Sunday 2pm-4pm

We will keep you informed of any further plans as they develop.



Stations of the Cross will be shared at 5pm each Friday through Lent on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshighbridge>

Plans for Holy Week and Easter will be determined in consultation with Reverend Martin Little and largely determined by COVID guidance and restrictions.

ONLINE (Zoom) Licencing Service of Reverend Martin Little

Reverend Martin Little will be licensed as Priest in Charge via Zoom (Online) on Thursday 18th March. If you would like to attend this service then please contact Chris Perry chrisa.pcc@gmail.com or 01278 783753 as soon as possible.

OFFICE OPENING

Wednesday 9.30am – 2.45pm

Friday 9.30am -2.45pm

Term time only

With the ongoing restrictions Liz is continuing to work from home but can be emailed anytime stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com or contacted on her new number 01278 326344

Knitting Pattern



If you would like this year's knitting pattern please email Liz stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com or call on 01278 326344

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

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun 28th Second Sunday of Lent 2pm – 4pm Church open for prayer

MARCH 2021

Thurs 4th 10am – 2pm Church open for prayer

Sun 7th Third Sunday of Lent 2pm – 4pm Church open for prayer

Thurs 11th 10am – 2pm Church open for prayer

Sun 14th Fourth Sunday of Lent 2pm – 4pm Church open for prayer

Thurs 18th 10am – 2pm Church open for prayer

7pm

Rev Martin Little Licensing via zoom





"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

A service to pray, remember and to mark the life of a loved one will be streamed live on the diocesan Facebook page and on their website on Wednesday 3rd March at 2pm

www.bathandwells.org.uk

www.facebook.com/bathandwells

If you would like the name of a loved one you have lost during the pandemic read out please email their name to comms@bathwells.anglican.org

*Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.*



Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell are encouraging people of all backgrounds to set aside time each day for prayer – if possible, stopping wherever they are at 6pm each evening.

"We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love."

*Loving God,
At this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength, our people hope.
Lead us through these parched and difficult days to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that
we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*