

St John the Evangelist Signpost Weekly
Fourth Sunday of Easter 25th April 2021

Dear Friends,

It seems to be a bit of a tradition for vicarly types to begin their parish missives by talking about the weather. April is that time when one day it feels like summer, and the next we're plunged back into colder climes. In Scotland we say, 'ne'er cast a clout til may be oot'. This apparently means don't put away your winter coat until the end of May, but my Mum always told me it was actually to do with the flowers on the May Tree. The beautiful blossom was a sign that spring had truly sprung, and that summer was on the way.

It feels as if there are new signs of life around us; shops are open again, hairdressers are taming our lockdown locks, and there's just more buzz around the place. Many of you I've spoken to are on your second vaccine - us mere forty-somethings are still waiting for the first! It's a strange time of transition, where the old overlaps with the new. I wonder how you are feeling in the midst of it all?

It's also a time of transition for us as a church. I can't believe it's only been a month since I was licensed, and that we've only just begun to worship together in our church building. There are many things from the past that I still need to get my head round - and many ideas and opportunities for the future that I can't wait to share. It's rather like this April time - a bit of the old, a bit of the new, and us in the middle trying to keep our heads. Some immediate change is afoot - Liz is changing her working hours so that we can better work together. We are also looking at a new format for this Signpost too, and looking at our pastoral prayers. Some names have been on the list for some time, and some we have no information about at all! Please let me know if you can update us, or know anyone that needs our immediate prayers. Rather than a big list every week, we will create a monthly list for those in long-term care who shall nevertheless not be forgotten. They, and we, are part of the body of Christ together. Lastly, as things begin to open up, please do think how you can serve the church. This could be on Sundays, by reading, praying, singing, cleaning or flowers. We are so grateful to Jo Burridge for 10+ years as parish safeguarding officer. She is stopping, so we need someone to do this essential role. And there are vacancies on the PCC! So, there is much to do, but all of it can be deeply rewarding as we pursue our vision to be a people of courage sharing God's love across our community. I will be seeking you out, so why not surprise and delight me by prayerfully considering what you can do in line with your gifts.

Grace and peace, *Rev'd Martin.*

COLLECTS AND READINGS

25th April 4th Sunday of Easter Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18

Collect: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2nd May 5th Sunday of Easter Acts 8:26-end; John 15:1-8

Collect: Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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.

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, Bishop Peter Hancock, Gloria Vivash, Audrey Lomax, Tony Webb, Geof Amesbury, Gaynor Lynham, Adrian Roberts, Jo Burridge.

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:

Sheila Broadstock, Edna Tate, Joan Abbott, John Jackson,

PRAYER FOCUS

Monday:

For our parish Safeguarding officer, Jo Burridge, and all who keep us safe in church and society.

Tuesday:

For the courage to share our faith with those we meet

Wednesday:

For Rev'd Dan & family as he comes back from holiday, and for Liz, Dan and Martin as they share a morning together.

Thursday:

For vulnerable people everywhere, especially the elderly and the sick.

Friday:

For those who live and work in Highbridge, including retail, industry and food production.

Saturday:

For our brothers and sisters across the world, especially in India and Brazil where COVID is crippling health services.

Sunday:

For our own Neil Biddiscombe and all ordinands, curates, clergy and lay ministers.

Who's Who at St John's:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Martin Little 792154

Curate: Rev'd Dan Crouch 325194

Churchwardens:

Chris Perry 783753

Jenny Dolan 785935

St. John's is now open for worship every Sunday at 8am and 9.30am

The church will continue to open for unsupervised private prayer on Thursday's 10am – 2pm

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

NEW OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Tuesday 10am – 2pm

Wednesday 9.30am – 12 noon

Thursday 10am -2pm

Term time only

Liz is continuing to work from home but can be emailed anytime

stjohnsofficehighbridge@gmail.com

or contacted on 01278 326344

ELECTORAL ROLL

Forms are now available from Jenny Dolan (01278 785935) to apply for membership to the Electoral roll.

The closing date for this year's roll is 2nd May.

If you are considering taking a position in the church community you will need to be included on the roll and only those on the electoral roll may vote within the Church of England.

Bishop Peter's Farewell

**Saturday 22nd May
3pm**

There will be a service at 3pm followed by a live streamed informal tea.

If you would like to join in with the service and/or watch the tea these can be accessed on the day via the Diocese of Bath and Wells Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/bathandwells

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Please note the new date for this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 23rd May 2021

10.30am in Church

We currently have two vacancies on the PCC.

It would be great to get the PCC up to full strength to lead our church forward being people of courage sharing God's love across our community.

We are also seeking a new safeguarding officer as Jo Burrige, who has faithfully done this role for over 10 years, is stepping down.

Please do take some time to pray and think about these roles and if God is calling you to serve.

If you would like more information or an informal chat please do speak to a member of the PCC, Liz or the clergy.

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

APRIL 2021

Sun 25th Fourth Sunday of Easter 8am Communion
9.30am Communion

Thurs 28th 10am – 2pm Church open for prayer

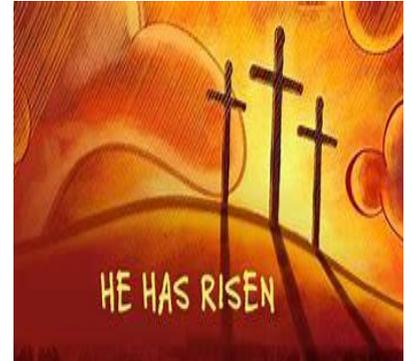
MAY 2021

Sun 2nd Fifth Sunday of Easter 8am Communion
9.30am Communion

Thurs 6th 10am – 2pm Church open for prayer

Sun 9th Sixth Sunday of Easter 8am Communion
9.30am Communion

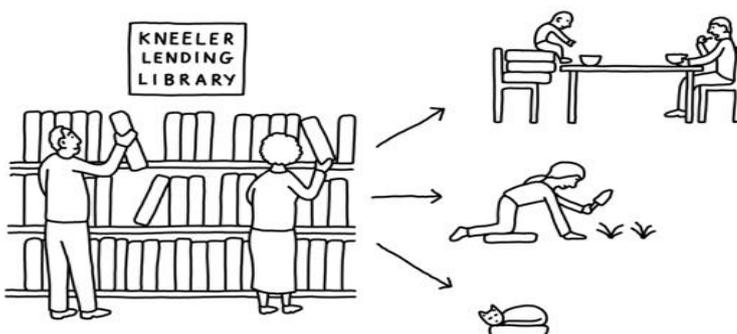
Thurs 13th 10am – 2pm Church open for prayer



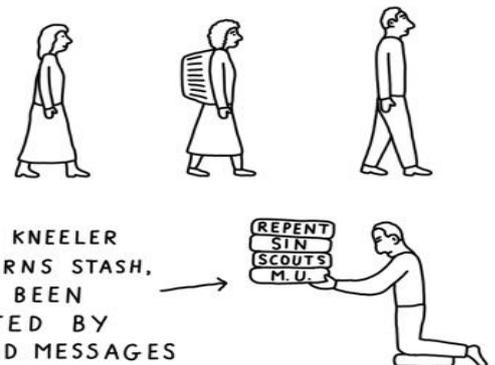
THE KNEELERS

HOW THEY ARE BEING USED DURING THE PANDEMIC

SOME WERE LENT OUT BEFORE THE START OF LOCKDOWN



A FEW WERE PILFERED (VERY TRICKY TO DETECT)



THE CLERGY USE THE REMAINDER FOR (SOCIALLY-DISTANCED) TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES

