

'Gossip' According to St John's

MAY 2017

Be still
and know
that I am
 *God*
-PSALM 46:10

LIST OF SERVICES FOR MAY 2017

Wednesday 3 rd	3.15 pm	Smile
Thursday 4 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Communion
Thursday 11 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Lay led Service
Thursday 18 th	10.00 am	Matins
Sunday 21 st	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Communion
	11.30am	Baptism
Thursday 25 th	Ascension Day	
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Communion

LIST OF WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS

Baptisms

- April 23rd Thea Victoria Iris Mead, daughter of Andrew and
Victoria of Humpries Road, Wellington
- April 23rd Martha Molly Summers, daughter of Stuart and Elizabeth
of Lillebonne Way, Wellington
- April 23rd Harry David Johnston Fowler, son of Kayleigh and Owen
of Cobb Castle, Wellington

Whoever welcomes in my name, such children as these, welcomes me

Funerals

- April 3rd Margaret(Ricky) Peters, aged 82, of Ford Street, Wellington

Jesus has turned our sunsets into sunrises

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

- Monday 29th May Blackdown Early Music
- Saturday 8th July Amici

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP of TAUNTON

This month I want to say a huge “THANK YOU!” to you all. In 2016, for the first time since 2009, the parishes in the Dioceses collectively contributed over 99% of the Parish Share requested for the Common Fund. All but 21 parishes made their full financial contribution. We know that for most parishes the Parish Share is the largest amount in your budget. You have made great efforts. Thank you so very much!

There will always be a few parishes each year that have particular financial issues which mean you can't quite make the full amount and I want to say “thank you” to you Too. Thank you for doing your best and thank you for working with central staff in finance and stewardship as they seek to help your parish rise to the challenge.

Parish Share is essential to the mission of the Church in the diocese, without it our parochial clergy could not be supported. The Common Fund is the diocese's largest single income stream. Through Parish Share, each church is given the opportunity of contributing towards the financial cost of ministry in the entire diocese. Larger and wealthier parishes are asked to make greater contributions so stipendiary ministry can be provided to less wealthy areas that otherwise might not have been able to afford it.

As Paul wrote....

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.” (2 Corinthians 8: 13-14a NIV)

So, “Thank You!” for your commitment and generosity ,in this past year. It is a wonderful response to the generous love of God for us which is demonstrated so amazingly in the Easter story.

+ Rt Revd Ruth Worsley

ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY – Question 5 – ‘Living and Telling the Story

How are we, at St John’s Church, planning to ‘place mission at the heart of all we do’?

The PCC, guided and supported in prayer and leadership by our Rector, Tim Treanor, and newly appointed Team Missioner, Rev Selina Garner, have given –and are continuing to give–this inspiring behest much thought and discussion.

At the core of this process is the discussion document which Rev Selina has drafted, in discussion with Rev Tim, and which lays out a potent framework around which this church can, over the next 3 – 5 years, meaningfully engage with the wider community to bring the ‘Good News’ of Christ’s life and mission to so many more people than just those of us in our church community. It is a document which seeks to enable us to ‘Grow our Church Younger’, under-pinned by the core values of: i/ Growing in Faith, ii/ Belonging to God’s Church, and iii/ Serving people and sharing our Faith.

“We seek to be part of a growing family of Anglican expressions of church in town and countryside that support one another to explore and share the Christian story.”

The discussion document sets out a number of areas within which we will seek to ‘reach out’ to our community.

Firstly, it is in looking at the talents and gifts of those of us in our church through which we can creatively explore and share the Christian faith through music and the creative arts. Again this year, one of our worshippers has been undertaking a daily ‘Creative Lent’ in words, poems, music, photographs and art. Making a connection between these several areas of creativity to God’s love for Mankind is not something that many outside of the church would perhaps do, but over time such connections may ‘seed’ in the minds of more and more people as we use our creativity to reach out to the wider community.

Articles of enquiry cont'd...

Secondly, there are opportunities to engage with people who do not see the church having a role to play in their lives. One such is in how we connect to families who bring their children to our church to be baptised, not just on the day of the baptism but if we can, in the weeks and months that follow. Today, Sunday 19th March, was an extraordinary day for our church with three baptism family groups filling the church – as many as 300 people of all ages come to witness the baptisms of these children. What an amazing moment in time in which to reach out to so many!

Concerning the young, St John's Church is 'just over the road' from its Church of England Primary School, under the Christian-led Headship of Gareth Jones. A strong and growing connection exists between church and school enabling a solid and meaningful R.E. curriculum to be an integral part of this school's teaching and child development. Tim is closely involved in the spiritual development of the school, together, both school and church can reach out and support parents and relatives of children attending St John's Primary School at this present time,.

Continuing the theme of our school link, our intention is to continue to engage closely with the school through assemblies, after school groups, special school services, church members working in the school, (which many do voluntarily at this time helping with, for example, reading). Gareth Jones is particularly keen to find a music specialist to enhance the schools music provision with a focus on Christianity, and we hope to be involved in this desire.

We hope to foster attendance at special children friendly services at St John's Church, and to help with parenting support with the guidance of the school. We will also continue to engage with the local secondary school in Wellington – Court Fields School for years 7 to 11 pupils – where a number of church members support individual students through the school's mentoring programme.

Articles of enquiry cont'd...

The importance of our collective role in this part of Wellington cannot be over stated. The Priory area is the third most deprived area in Somerset, with real social deprivation issues here which the church community can positively impact upon. With our thoughts for a sensible range of social activities, such as community events, fetes and fundraisers, it is to be hoped that St John's will be regarded as a 'Christian hub' which has a real relevance to the lives of our neighbouring communities.

None of these intentions, however, can realistically be effectively met without funding being invested into the several development areas under discussion. A significant area of cost includes the creation of specific part-time paid posts to develop and steer the plans under discussion. We hope to attract a Team Leader to liaise with St John's School in setting up parenting links, and to support children and families as they explore and share in the Christian faith. We would also seek another leader to explore Christianity through the creative arts, and to fund a young leaders post to liaise with the varied school and youth-orientated ideas. There are also the several smaller areas of funding which will attach to the various activities and involvements which we have in mind.

With costings in mind, a speculative costing plan has been attached to the document, composed by Rev Selina and which extends over a three year period. This totals around £45,000, such is the intended level of commitment to our Christian mission. To this end we are very fortunate indeed to have been informed of a significant legacy which has generously been left to St John's Church, sufficient for us to be able to seriously engage in the ongoing planning and introduction of these plans with God's grace through our prayers for a renewal and re-growing of faith amongst those in our communities.

Grahame,
Churchwarden,
St John's Church,
Wellington.

SMILE

Especially for children and families, after school on the first Wednesday of the month at St John's.

In March we had two Smile gatherings as the first Wednesday of April is in the school holidays. At the first one on Ash Wednesday, we explored Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant, the story being acted out brilliantly by some of the children and all taking part in activities involving floating paper boats, fixing broken biscuits (with lots of icing!) and competing in a pancake race time trial. We ended with prayers, thanking God for his forgiveness of us and asking him to help us forgive others, as we dropped shells into a big bowl of water.

Then on March 29th we gathered again, this time exploring the story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet (Mark 12:3-9 . Coming at the Easter story from a different angle we asked the question 'what is Easter really all about?' and got involved in the usual variety of activities, culminating eating our smiley face pizzas that we created earlier!

Smile dates for the summer term: No Smile in April (due to Easter holidays), 3rd May, 7th June and 5th July.

All welcome. More info from Jean, Sally, Barbara, Anne and John at St John's

The Smile Team

THE BIG TENT

The Big Tent summer holiday club, organised by the Wellington churches, will be back in Wellington on August 15th, 16th and 17th and is open to all Primary school-aged children.

Lots of teams needed as always, working with the children and behind the scenes. Come along and hear more about what's happening this year on Thursday 11th May and Thursday 15th, June, 7.45 pm at Wellington Baptist Church hall.

A MESSAGE FROM SELINA

If any of you love taking photos, please can you take some photos of the stained glass and textiles in your churches and of the churches themselves, on those rare but wonderful sunny days. Then ask me to share the drop box system I am trying to set up (or help me find another way for us to share our creativity) to create an accessible folder of images and poetry and prayers for us all to use.

Email:..... Selina@thegarnerers.me.uk

LOVE EAST AFRICA !

The 'Love East Africa' event is going to be an evening of mixed entertainment and static art which will take place on Saturday 13th May in St John's Church at 7.30 pm.

The money raised from the event is going to be shared between the Christian Aid and Tearfund East Africa famine appeals.

If you are a singer, musician, dancer, poet, dramatist, artist etc. etc (!) we would love you to take part in this event.

Alternatively, you might just like to come along and enjoy the evening. Tickets will cost £5.00 and will include a free drink on the night. Tickets are available from your local church or Cards and Co, South Street, Wellington

If you would like to take part, or wish to know more please send an email to LoveEastAfrica1305@gmail.com or telephone Christine Silverlight on 01823 663109

SHARING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.

Pray for the Ashbrittle Group

Elaine would value your prayers as she meets the parents of local children and discusses establishing a Messy Church/ after school gathering exploring the Christian faith.

Pray for East Group's ministry to schools

For Open the Book at West Buckland and Langford Budville schools

For Storytime at Nynehead pre-school.

Pray for St John's Church and their vision

Investing in growing younger by strengthening links with St John's School

Pray for new ways to develop our music ministry

For stronger links exploring the Christian faith through the creative arts

For ways to support and encourage local parents

For a toddler service and more opportunities for families to worship and grow in faith

Pray for the Holywell group's young people

Who meet together regularly and help to lead worship in the local churches

For Selina and Helena as they lead the group

For Michael as he explores baptism

For assemblies, all age worship and messy church.

Sharing the Christian Faith continued...

Pray for opportunities to improve our ministry around baptism

Pray for Church members and staff involved in Courtfields and Wellington schools

Pray for the children, families and staff in our 8 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and pre-schools across the team

Pray that our churches offer a warm welcome to young children and their families

Pray for our policies and people that keep the church safe

GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR ALL THE CHILDREN IN OUR PARISHES

NEW B.R.F. NOTES

‘ Bible Reflections for Older People’

B.R.F. have a new addition to their sets of notes which a number of you already use.

‘Bible Reflections for Older People’ consists of 40 reflections written by older people, and amongst other topics it tackles issues such as independence, decision making, dementia and disability.

The notes are published three times annually in January, May and September but are otherwise undated. A year’s subscription costs £14.97. There is one sample copy on the bookstand. Please let me know if you would like to subscribe.

Thank you. Tessa Bradnock

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

ORANGE SPONGE MOULD

1 Sachet (1/2 oz) Gelatine

¼ pint Warm Water

4 oz Granulated Sugar

3 Oranges

1 Lemon

2 Egg Yolks

3 or 4 Sponge Cakes

Method

Dissolve the gelatine in water, add the sugar, juice of the fruit and a little grated orange and lemon rind.

Add the egg yolks and crumble in the sponge cakes (easiest if they are stale). Whisk all together until crumbs are thoroughly broken up.

Pour into a rinsed mould to set. Serve with whipped cream. (This may be made the day before it is needed).

This recipe has been supplied by Sylvia Waymouth from the recipe booklet entitled Family Favourites, All Saints, Nynhead 1988.

Thank you for this Sylvia, all recipes gratefully received.

Editor

PRAY FOR SCHOOLS FORTNIGHT

Hi. In a few weeks time we'll be making schools and education the focus of our prayers by taking part in the annual *Pray for Schools Fortnight* – a UK wide initiative supported by a host of Christian organisations including the Association of Christian Teachers, Scripture Union, Youth for Christ, Prayer Spaces in Schools and Open the Book – simply encouraging churches to pray for their local schools. Here in Tone Deanery we'd like to encourage churches and individuals to join in, from 7 to the 21 May. www.prayforschools.org

Pray for Schools Fortnight includes 3 Sundays (7th, 14th, 21st) on one of which we're encouraging churches to include special prayers for schools in their usual Sunday service or to go a bit further and plan a service themed around schools and education. One idea used by some churches is to have an interview slot in the service and interview a young person, a teacher or someone who works or volunteers at a local school, or perhaps even invite along a teacher or Headteacher to share something about the life of the school. Another idea would be to involve the Open The Book team (there are quite a few around now) asking them to talk about their visits into school and maybe even to perform one of the Bible stories they've used. Churches could also include a 'schools focus' into other prayer meetings or house groups that happen during these two weeks.

If you're involved in leading a service or group there are some more ideas and resources on the Pray for Schools website: <http://www.prayforschools.org/pfs-events/pray-for-schools-fortnight/> including an inspiring video that's worth a watch. If you can't find what you're looking for then do let me know and I'll see if I can help.

Pray for schools continued....

In addition, I'll be hosting a number of midweek events around the Deanery where the nearby school will come and join us in praying for their school in creative ways. Dates for these are:

Wednesday 10 May—St Bartholomew's Oake

Thursday 11 May—St Mary's Bishops Lydeard

Wednesday 17 May—St John's Wellington

If you would be interested in helping with these visits on the day please do let me know. It is always good to have some friendly faces on hand to welcome the children and staff to the church buildings. Each church will also be available over lunchtime for those who'd like to come and join in prayers for our local schools.

Next week, I will be writing to the Headteachers of all our schools (18 in total in the geographical area of Tone Deanery!) to let them know we will be especially praying for them during these two weeks. As some of you are regular visitors to local schools you might like to follow this up in person and let staff and children know they are being prayed for.

Let us pray.

Andy

Ps. you might like to share some of this information via your church notice sheet over the next few weeks. Thanks!

YEAR 6 LEAVER'S DAY

Our Year 6 Leavers' Day is set for Thursday 6 July at St John's Church.

Wellesley Park, Langford Budville, St John's, West Buckland and Rockwell Green Primary Schools are all keen for their Year 6 pupils to be involved again, just over 100 children in total.

As always we'll need a team to lead and run the day and I'd also like to gather a core group of us together to plan the detail of this year's event. After last year's de-brief it felt to me like it would be worth a bit of a rethink and freshen up of the format of the day. Oddments Theatre are booked and in discussion with them they have suggested a slightly different format for their part in it, which could prove helpful. Team-wise it always feels really good that we have a collection of those who visit the various Primary Schools and who are known to the Year 6s already. I hope you will be able to be part of this again and/or suggest others from your churches who might be.

Please see suggested dates for a meeting below - can you please reply and indicate your interest and availability in meeting to plan and confirm your availability (or not) for the day itself, 6 July?

Wednesday 3 May 9.30am

Thursday 4 May 9.30am or 2pm

Friday 5 May 9.30am

Andy

WHAT IF

This poem received from Peter Horsford written 17th October 2002

What if Adam had stayed a single man,
instead of acquiescing to God's eternal plan.

Had Noah not had the skill to build a boat,
then creation would not have found itself afloat.
Or, if Pharaoh's girl had not bathed in water blue,
would she have found a baby in a basket, all new.

What if that baby, when old and grey,
had not chanced upon a burning bush, one day.

Or if little Samuel had slept through the night,
instead of answering a Voice in that morning light.

Suppose David as a lad, had not the skill of martial art,
would he with catapult and stone made a Philistine giant depart?

If Solomon had asked for wealth as a kingly prize,
would the Temple have been built, and he be wise.

Had Elijah not heard a still, small voice and a vision seen,
would Elisha from ploughman to his successor been?

WHAT IF.. continued....

If Nehemiah had not shown a sad face to a king,
would Jerusalem's walls had their rebuilding.

Suppose a maid called Mary had not journeyed far,
would a Babe have been born 'neath the Morning Star?

If the fishermen had had no nets to mend,
would there have been Twelve Messengers to send.

If Jesus had for blasphemy been stoned,
would Holy Church have a Cross it owned?

If no Christ had risen from the grave,
who then would come our souls to save.

Thank you Peter, much for us all to ponder

PASTORAL CARE

If you know of anyone who is unwell and would like their name added to the prayer list or if a visit is needed, please contact Mrs Judith Dufour who is the St John's Pastoral Companions co-ordinator, telephone number 01823 666633

ST JOHN'S PRAYER CHAIN

Judith 666633.

Sue 664592

sally 650778

Iris 664613

Jean 669622

John 07530689700

Jacqui 667589

Jane 07775663385

Barbara and Giles 663828

Peter 663374

Lois 667971

If you are in need of prayer please use this chain and ring and give brief details to the first person on the above list and we will pass your prayer need around the chain. Please be assured all is confidential and you need only give your first name and your prayer need or even just a need. This does not in any way take the place of the Sunday Healing Prayer Ministry but is in addition to it.

THE ST MARGARET'S LECTURES2017

'FINDING MEANING IN LIFE AND DEATH'

' A Theology of Death after the Resurrection'

DR JANE WILLIAMS

Wednesday 31st May

All lectures to be held at St Margaret's Hospice, Heron Drive, Taunton, TA1 5HA Tickets £5, towards the cost of the evening.

Drinks and canapes will be served from 6.30 pm, with lecture to start at 7.15 pm

Tickets are available at www.stmRGrets-hspice.org.uk, search 'lectures'

“The Extra Ordinary Life of Frank Derrick, age 81”

by JB Morrison

I saw this book in the Taunton Library. On the back it said: “For fans of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*” this is a quirky life-affirming story.” I remembered how Tim got us all to read Harold Fry a couple of years ago. (It’s a lovely book, and it’s in the Church Library, plus the companion volume *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy*.)

I enjoyed this book. It’s got more bad language than *Harold*, (mostly from *Frank’s* cat,) so I cannot give it an unqualified recommendation. Frank breaks his arm, has to have a weekly visit from a carer, and life changes a bit. He still has trouble with cold-callers, with finance, with well-meaning do-gooders. He visits a friend in a home, grumbles, watches old films and eats a lot of tinned spaghetti. He’s glad to have a free bus pass – even though there’s nowhere he wants to go. Similarly he is glad of the free TV licence, even though “all the programmes are rubbish nowadays.”

What I most liked were some of the observations about how we react when offered help. Frank emails his daughter in the USA, telling her he’s fine, and she needn’t come over to see him, whilst secretly longing for her to ignore his words, drop everything and get on a plane. He is opposed to the attempt to set him up with a carer to visit weekly, and when he is overruled, decides to be uncooperative. Kelly the carer arrives and brings a breath of fresh air into Frank’s life. She is meant to come once a week, to clean the flat, and to give Frank a bath, if he’d only let her do so.

The funniest passage in the book is when, in preparation for her second visit, he clumsily attempts, with arm in plaster, to clean up his flat and himself. He doesn’t want her to think badly of him. I was reminded of my Mum, who always cleaned up before the cleaner arrived.

The Extra Ordinary Life continued.....

It's a shame if we get too trapped by concerns of what others will think of us. We have a heavenly Father to whom we can speak honestly. He has revealed Himself in Jesus, showing that He loves us, no matter what we've done, no matter what we're like. I delight in the fact that Jesus loved Zacchias, even though he'd done wrong. He loved the penitent thief, even though he'd done worse. He loved Simon Peter, even though he let his Master down. He loves me, even though... and He loves you, even though... You get the idea!

Giles Godber

CALENDAR OF SOCIAL EVENTS (January – May 2017)

The Social Committee are hoping to hold the following events and your valued support and help is always much appreciated for raffle prizes, cakes and donations for the Coffee Mornings.

Friday	May 5th	Soup Lunch	
Saturday	May 20th	Coffee Morning	Plants

Please Contact Julie Morton, 661996 or any member of the Social Committee – Iris Ellins, Jenny Bache, Joyce Norrish, Pat Andrews, Pat Bright, Sue Young, Ann Fry or Lenore Clarke for further details or with any offers of help, to make these events successful for everyone in our Church Community.

FRIENDS OF WELLINGTON PARK

Are starting their Summer Concerts on Sunday 4th June, 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm with The Taunton Concert Band

We will put the full programme for the rest of the summer in the June 'Gossip'

For more information ring 01823 356362

FRIENDS OF WELLINGTON SCHOOL

THE WURZELS

Wellington School Marquee, School Field Gates open 6.45 pm

Tickets are now on sale for The Wurzels Concert on 8th July 2017.

Use the link <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BTQ> or call 01813 668850.

Tickets cost £16 in advance or £18 on the door. Cash bar with a selection of local ciders.

PILGRIM COURSE: the Lord's Prayer

The Connecting with Belief Group will be looking at the Lord's Prayer over a series of 6 sessions using the material from the Pilgrim Course. (You may remember that when Tim first came he used part of the Pilgrim Course as a means of helping people explore their relationship with God.) Anyone is welcome to join us. Each session will take place in the church hall at St John's on alternate Wednesday evenings from 7.15 – 8.45 pm starting on March 15th. A course booklet is available at a cost of £5.99 which Maria will order for you if you let her know you want it. (Tel: 01884 256380 email.

mariahearl@btinternet.com)

Sessions will be as follows:

May 10th Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

May 24th Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

June For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

We look forward to exploring the Lord's prayer together.

Maria

THE FOOD BANK
URGENTLY REQUIRED

TINNED FRUIT 400GRMS

TEA BAGS 80'S

DRIED PASTA 500 GRMS

UHT MILK 1 LITRE

BREAKFAST CEREALS

Other items required are:-

Soup, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Tinned meat, Tinned Vegetables, Coffee, Sugar, Biscuits and Snacks .If you are not already giving perhaps you could look at the above lists and supply something.

The Food Bank Box is it at the back of the church, if you could supply something please bring on either a Sunday or Thursday.

Thank you

PRINCIPALS OF THE CHURCH

Rector	Rev'd Tim Treanor	01823 662248
	Email. tlvtreanor@btinternet.com	
Team Missioner	Revd Selina Garner	01823 662227
	Email. Selina@thegarner.me.uk	
Rural Dean	Revd Matthew Tragenza	
Assistant Rural Dean	Revd Helene Stainer	
Reader	Mr John Elder	01823 669820
	Email.johnelder@virgin.net	
Churchwardens	Mr Grahame Woodward	01823 663236
	Miss Sue Young	07850585498
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Jenny Bache	01823664390
Stewardship & Gift Aid	Mrs Alison Woodward	01823 663236
Director of Music	Mr John Young	01823 663157
PCC Secretary	Mr David Dufour	01823 666633
Mothers' Union	Contact Pat Andrews 664857 or Joyce Norrish 669633	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Julie Morton	01823 661996