

# 'Gossip' According to St John's

AUGUST 2017

Your word  
is a  
lamp  
to my feet  
and a  
light for my  
path.  
© Psalm 119 vs. 105





## THE BISHOP'S MESSAGE

In a magazine recently I read about a distance learning course **being** offered by St. John's College in Nottingham specifically for Church Administrators. It combines study alongside working, takes about 18 months, and leads to a Certificate in Christian Studies. Those who have completed the course speak of how not only has it transformed their way of working, but how it changed the way others within the church perceived them and the work that they do. I found that really encouraging.

All churches are dependent on the skills, gifts and talents of church members offering their time and expertise to help build up the Church. Valuing, appreciating and developing those God-given gifts is so important. When Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth he said; 'Now to each one has been given the Spirit's gifts for the good of all.' (1 Corinthians Chapter 12) He then goes on to give examples of those gifts. He mentions prophecy and healing, preaching and teaching, leadership and tongues and many others. But tucked away in that list of gifts and ministries we read that God has appointed people with the ability 'to help others and those with gifts of administration'. Administrators are mentioned in the same list as apostles, miracle workers and prophets. Although as anyone who has ever been involved in Church work knows administrators often are 'miracle workers' ensuring that all the necessary administrative tasks of the church are done efficiently and effectively. The word Paul uses for 'administrator' is the same word that is used for a pilot of a ship, whose task it is to steer the ship safely through the rocks and the shoals to the harbour. Administrators seldom stand in the limelight, they work in the background and shoulder the routine but essential work on which everything else depends.

We don't always know who counts the collection, produces the service sheets, takes the minutes, or staples the church magazine together. But God knows and without all those people the mission of the church would not go forward as it does. Hurrah for administrators.

***The Right Rev'd Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells***

## THE BIG TENT

Before half term we had a really positive vision sharing evening at Wellington Baptist Church with around 20 potential volunteers present to hear about this year's plans and to begin to shape them. We're particularly excited to have a good number of teenagers signing up to be part of the team this year, some of whom will be helping me to front the programme on stage whilst others will be working alongside the children in the teams.

On the evening Selina also shared plans for something new we're trying this year. As well as the main marquee we're having a 'Tea Tent' on site, geared at parents (and toddlers) who are dropping off their older children at The Big Tent for the day and might like to stop for a friendly chat and a cuppa before they continue with their day. There will also be the usual Family Celebration on the Thursday evening, 5.30pm, when we invite the whole family to come and find out what we've been doing, plus burger van and bouncy castles!

We also really grateful to Wellington Town Council for giving us a grant of £500 towards costs. If you would like to give something towards the cost and development of this annual event you can send a cheque payable to 'Wellington Churches Together' marked for The Big Tent to the Wellington Baptist Church office, 28 South Street, Wellington, TA21 8NS.

Please do pray for the team as it comes together for this year's event and especially for the children and families in the Wellington area that we are inviting to join us. Having got the core of our team together already we are hoping to fill the tent with 100 children this year, as well as connect with many of the families.

And finally, now is the time to tell any friends, family or neighbours with Primary School-aged children about The Big Tent. They may have been before and they have had a leaflet from their school but in my opinion nothing beats a personal invite.

The Big Tent continued....

There are some leaflets in some of the church buildings and the details can be found online at [www.thebigtent.co.uk](http://www.thebigtent.co.uk). And if you are able to publicise The Big Tent in your church/parish magazine please use the text below (rather than this bit of my email) to do so. Have also attached logos you could use. Thanks 😊

Andy Levett

Youth & Children's Work Coordinator for Tone Deanery

Diocese of Bath & Wells

07595 311183

[andyilevett@btinternet.com](mailto:andyilevett@btinternet.com)

## **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@thegarner.me.uk](mailto:Selina@thegarner.me.uk)

## MWENDA

Hello Everyone

Thank you very much to those of you who were able to come on July 10<sup>th</sup> and hear Jane Tompsett, the Diocesan New World Mission Adviser, talk about her recent visit to Zambia and her time in Mwenda. I hope those who came found it encouraging.

Jane first talked a bit about herself; she was a physiotherapist before spending 11 years overseas with various groups including Leprosy and Tear Fund. Jane is replacing Jenny Humphreys. She spent six weeks in Zambia in April and May, travelling 1,000km meeting up with 38 Parish Links and sleeping in 24 different beds! Jane talked about the original setting up of the link between Zambia and Bath & Wells in 1978.

During her visit she said she explained how in Bath & Wells we are 'Living and telling the story' and asked them how they are doing that, and what challenges they face? They find getting young people and attracting men to the church, a problem, much the same as it is here.

Jane went on to say that this Mission link is bigger than the church, its not that the church of God has a Mission, it's that The God of Mission has a church in the world. Mission and Evangelism is at the heart of all we do.

There are 60 active links; our link with Mwenda started in 2005. Next year is the 40th Anniversary of the link with Zambia. On April 29th there will be celebrations in Lusaka Cathedral, with our Bishops attending and on July 14th celebrations will take place in Wells Cathedral. On July 15<sup>th</sup> (a Sunday) it is hoped that the Bishops that come over from Zambia will be invited to some of the link Parishes; it is hoped that Wellington could take part in this.

Mwenda continued....

Jane showed us photos of her time in Mwenda. Canon John (who is the Dean of Chipili Cathedral and has oversight of Mwenda Parish and its daughter churches) as Fr Michael did previously, lives in Chipili. The first village one comes to on the way to Mwenda, is Mung'Anga. This has encouraged the church of St Bartholomew in Mung'Anga to try to become the main church rather than St John's in Mwenda! (They were building a school there on our last visit in 2010.) Jane noticed a healthy competition between the two villages: when St John's church was burnt down in a bush fire it was immediately rebuilt! Jane was very impressed with the Mwenda community, she felt they were united and working together.

The young women usually join The St Veronica's Guild and then after marriage move on to The MU, but this is not happening as it used to because the MU has a lot of rules with the result that St Veronica's Guild are growing in numbers. Jane was told that the MU still has the sewing machines we donated but only the MU use them and then only the hand machines as the lady that knew how to use the treadle machines has moved away. Jane suggested to them that they share the machines with the St Veronicas as they may well know how to use the treadle machines. (It is good to know the sewing machines are still there)

Jane showed us a photo of a small building that the St Veronica's Guild had built for visiting preachers to stay in. On the Priest house, Jane felt very hopeful that this will be built this year. They are working hard to cement the floor of the church, put seats and windows in. Their next project is the house, they can supply the materials needed to build the house but would like financial help from us for the tin roof structure, windows and doors. Both Canon John and Bishop Robert are supporting this and there is a realisation of being accountable and transparent about the financial side. All Bishop Robert's Priests are paid, which is not always the case in Zambia, and his rural Priests have motorbikes. This is quite a change from what the situation has been in the past.

Mwenda continued.....

Jane suggested that I keep in regular contact with Canon John, asking about progress and the costings for the materials we shall help to buy. When we get those costings, we can send the money to The Diocese who will send it out to Luapula. We inform Mwenda when that has happened so that they can ask the Luapula Diocese for the money.

Thank you for continuing to support our link with Mwenda. It has been such a long time with nothing able to happen but now, finally, we may be able to help them with the Priest's house. Communication has been so difficult but that too is improving.

We will keep praying!

Best wishes and kind regards,

June Best

## **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

As an advance notice, I will be collecting the Children's Society boxes for emptying earlier this year, partly because the old £1 coins go out of circulation in October and partly because I will be on holiday.

I will remind you again in the August Gossip and will start collection in September.

Thank you once again for all your support for The Children's Society.

*Ann Fry.*

## **ST JOHN'S SCHOOL COUNCIL**

By the time that this reaches you, we will be on our summer break with another year completed. It has been a wonderful summer term with many highlights.

these have included Sports Day, KS2 Summer Concert and the BBQ and Disco. The hard work of pupils and staff has been rewarded

For the third year running in all key areas of learning, our outcomes are either in line with or above the national average.

Whilst saying goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 we welcome all new children and staff in September.

Finally, a big thank you and good luck to Mr Jones who has worked so hard for us all.

### **An ancient prayer for peace**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom:  
Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies;  
that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any  
adversaries;  
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **FRIENDS OF WELLINGTON PARK**

Are starting their Summer Concerts all at 2.30pm – 4.30 pm

Sunday August 6 <sup>th</sup>	The Right Side of the Track	Gentle Jazz
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dark Town Strutters	Traditional Jazz Band
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Yorkie	Popular Music
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Deane Big Band	Big Band

Come and enjoy the live outdoor musical entertainment. IT'S FREE !

For more information ring 01823 35636

## **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

## **THIS MONTHS RECIPE**

### **Cheesepuffs Eastern Style**

½ lb Margarine

½ lb self-raising flour

½ lb grated cheese

Salt and cayenne to taste

A little desiccated coconut

#### **METHOD**

Mix all the ingredients well

Form into small balls and roll in the coconut(optional, but this is what makes them 'different').

Place on a baking sheet(ungreased) and bake in a hot oven(450 F) until golden.

Delicious hot or cold.

Another offering from the book supplied by Sylvia Waymouth. I am still looking for some recipes from other members of the congregation.

*Lenore, Editor*

## 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

## SOCIAL GROUP PROGRAMME AUGUST – JANUARY 2018

**August 19<sup>th</sup>                      Summer Time Cream Tea    3.00 – 5.00 pm**

September

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>                      Soup Lunch

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>                      Coffee Morning                      Seasonal Produce

October

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>                      Coffee Morning                      Books and Jigsaws

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>                      Soup Lunch

November

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>                      Coffee Morning                      Bring and Buy

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>                      Soup Lunch

December

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>                      Coffee Morning                      Christmas Gifts etc.

### **January 2018**

Barn Dance, details to follow

Please note that the days we hold the Coffee Mornings and Soup Lunches, have changed due to clashing with other events in the town

# SAFEGUARDING

Are you aware that the Church of England has a safeguarding policy, and do you know what is meant by this?

Basically in our Churches, we are committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Church accepts and endorses the Children Act 1989 & 2004 and The Protection of Freedom Act 2012.

Christian communities should be places where all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse.

The Church is particularly called by God to support those less powerful and those without a voice in our society.

Our Parish is working towards creating a safe and non-discriminatory environment by being aware of some of the particular situations that create vulnerability. Such issues to be considered include both the physical environment and the attitudes of workers and volunteers.

If you are concerned about the safety or well being of anyone in our church community, be it abuse, bullying, neglect or disrespect, undignified behaviour or whatever, then please tell someone about your concerns.

The Rector is there to listen, as are your Safeguarding Officers namely, Patrick Clarke, Rev Selina Garner and Mrs Sharon Chorley.

Thank you.

**A SUMMER TIME CREAM TEA**

**ON**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**IN THE**

**CHURCH HALL**

**3.00PM – 5.00 PM**

**Come along and enjoy an afternoon of friendship with your  
friends and enjoy some quiet background music**

**There will be a Raffle**

**TICKETS:- Cream Tea £4.00**

**The Tickets are available from any member of the Social  
Committee**

## A CHRISTIAN COMMENT

Some have meat and canna eat

And some wad eat that want it

But we hae meat and we can at

And so the Lord be thankit

So runs the Scottish Grace

The custom of saying Grace or Giving Thanks at mealtime is not as customary these days as it used to be.

As children we were taught to say “please” and “thank you”. It is easy to say “thank you” when you have received something but requires faith to be grateful for what you have yet to receive!

In bygone days the 1<sup>st</sup> of August was called Lammas Day or Loaf Mass Day. On this day the flour from the first of grain of the Wheat Harvest was used to bake a loaf of bread which was then offered in Church as a Thanksgiving for the Harvest which was yet to be reaped.

It is interesting to me that the Prayer which we call the Lord’s Prayer right at the beginning, after seeking the kingdom of God asks “give us this day our daily bread”!

In these days, of food banks, famines and starving millions, most of us have more than enough to eat.

How good it would be if families once again could be begin each meal with a “Thank You” for, as some already say “what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful”.

*Peter Horsford*

## **PRAYER POINTS**

Pray for the new 'Campfire Church Network' starting on Monday afternoons in Ashbrittle.

Pray for a funding application to the diocese to support a Learning Community in our team. This will help us offer training and support to people in all our parishes who are running groups, services and activities that place mission at the heart of all we do .

## **RURAL MINISTRIES**

Pray for our partnership with Rural Ministries as they help us to communicate the Christian faith.

## **CREATIVE CHRISTIANITY**

Pray for those seeking to find ways to explore Bible stories, Christian values and faith through creative arts.

Pray for the Big Tent, Yr 6 Transitions day and the new parenting café we are setting up at St John's next term.

Pray for coffee mornings, Knit and Natter, Soup and a Bite, Recycled Teenagers, home visits, nursing home communions and support that we run for the elderly across the team.

*Rev Selina Garner*



## PRINCIPALS OF THE CHURCH

<b>Rector</b>	<b>Rev'd Tim Treanor</b>	<b>01823 662248</b>
	Email. <a href="mailto:tlvtreanor@btinternet.com">tlvtreanor@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Team Missioner</b>	<b>Revd Selina Garner</b>	<b>01823 662227</b>
	Email. <a href="mailto:Selina@thegarner.me.uk">Selina@thegarner.me.uk</a>	
<b>Rural Dean</b>	<b>Revd Matthew Tragenza</b>	
<b>Assistant Rural Dean</b>	<b>Revd Helene Stainer</b>	
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Mr John Elder</b>	<b>01823 669820</b>
	Email. <a href="mailto:john.elder@virgin.net">john.elder@virgin.net</a>	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Mr Grahame Woodward</b>	<b>01823 663236</b>
	<b>Mrs Christine Winhall</b>	<b>01823 663253</b>
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	<b>Mrs Jenny Bache</b>	<b>01823664390</b>
<b>Stewardship &amp; Gift Aid</b>	<b>Mrs Alison Woodward</b>	<b>01823 663236</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Mr John Young</b>	<b>01823 663157</b>
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	<b>Mr David Dufour</b>	<b>01823 666633</b>
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	<b>Contact Pat Andrews 664857 or Joyce Norrish 669633</b>	
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	<b>Mrs Julie Morton</b>	<b>01823 661996</b>