

'Gossip' According to St John's

JANUARY 2018



SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2018

Thursday 4 th	Holy Communion	
Sunday 7 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Communion
	6.30 pm	EPIPHANY
Wednesday 10 th	3.15 pm	Smile
Thursday 11 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Communion
Thursday 18 th	10.00 am	Matins
Sunday 21 st	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Communion
Thursday 25 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.45 am	Parish Communion

THE BISHOP'S LETTER

In Ancient Roman religion the god of beginnings and endings was Janus. In art and sculpture he is therefore usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks both to the future and to the past. And it is generally believed that the month of January is named after Janus. But looking back and looking forward are also both very much part of the Christian tradition and at the start of a New Year this can be a very helpful thing to do. We so often rush from one thing to the next, from one week to the next from one birthday to the next, from one Christmas to the next and fail to stop, to remember and to give thanks. It is certainly not sentimental or maudlin to look back and to remember some of the people who have been instrumental in our lives. Our parents, our teachers, our friends, colleagues at work, neighbours, people with whom we have shared the special moments of our lives. Sometimes we will have photos to remind us of them, or presents that perhaps they have given us. Sometimes however we have to rely on our memories. And as we remember we can give thanks for their example, for the love they gave us or the things they taught us.

Paul, writing to the Philippians said: 'Dear Friends, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable or excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things'. Sometimes the news seems to be filled with stories that are depressing, violent or worrying. But each of us has a fund of memories which remind us of the goodness, grace and love which we have received from other people. Those people and the example they showed us give us hope and inspire us 'to lead lives worthy of the Lord'.

The Bishop's Letter continued....

In that same letter to the Philippians Paul encourages his readers to 'live up to the example they have received' and to strain towards what lies ahead. He sees the Christian life as a race and speaks of 'pressing on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called him'. That prize is Jesus himself. His eyes are on what lies ahead, on all that is to come and eventually to the joys of heaven.

So as we begin a New Year let us give thanks for all that we have learnt about the Lord in years gone by. Let us give thanks that God walks with us and watches over us now. And let us look forward to the future, secure and confident of Jesus' promise that he is with us always - in everything and through everything - until the very end of time itself.

May the Lord bless you and watch over you in all that 2018 may bring.

With my prayers and best wishes

Rt Rev Peter Hancock

Bishop of Bath and Wells

FROM SELINA

On Thursday 28 September 2017 aged 48 I had a stroke.

My notes read... I suffered an acute infarct left posterior fossa and left vertebral artery dissection. Resulting in absent flow within the intracranial segment of the left vertebral artery and well demarcated acute area of acute infarction in the left posterior fossa suggesting the left posterior inferior cerebellar artery territory is involved.

Basically, part of my brain was without blood for so long it died .After some really excruciating headaches, vomiting and a sense of the room continually spinning; I was left unable to swallow or walk. I was fed by a feeding tube and stayed in hospital for two weeks. I experienced an extraordinary intimacy with Jesus during my time in hospital and inhabited a very thin place between heaven and earth. Two patients died in the first couple of days on the ward. I was then moved to a side room. I could hear the man next door becoming weaker and he died a few days later. I was not afraid of dying, but it became clear that my time on earth was not at an end. I was being invited to learn to walk with Jesus, even more closely, in this next season of my life.

These are some of the poems I wrote, inspired by my prayers and reflections. They helped me process some of the trauma and tell my story. Some of the poems paying close attention to small unexpected blessings around me, focused my heart and mind on the presence of God. Writing them down has helped me to find and hold on to hope.

Rev Selina Garner

FREE FALLING

Free falling

World spinning

Life changing

Lights blaring

Hearts breaking

Pain pounding

Limbs failing

Free falling

Hand holding

Hope harbouring

Peace pervading

Cross cradling

Love winning

Prayer healing

Resurrection dancing

Free falling

Into God's embrace

The Final Call

**Whirling round and round.
Phone ringing in my hand.
A shattering pain.
My voice is whispering his name.
Is this the last time
I will hear him cry,
as I prepare to die?
The words dissolve,
like dew drops in the sun
My son, my precious boy:
“The light of God shines on your face
and you will find your place
and change the world bring healing, ease their fears.
And I shall love you all the years
until you join me here,
for all eternity
my precious boy.”**

From Selina continued...

I was admitted onto Dunkery Ward and stayed there for two weeks. In the beginning I was very sensitive to noise and lights. I was closely monitored and attached to a drip and a feeding tube that often bleeped. I didn't know if I would be able to walk or eat again. The clock ticking sounded really loud.

Dunkery Ward Clock

Tick tock

Tick tock

Hospital clock

On Dunkery wall.

**The seconds stall;
time standing still.**

**Endless empty hours to fill
and silent tears that spill;
when darkness falls.**

Julian brought in my Mum's holding cross and holding this was my prayer in the middle of the night when the pain and fear was unbearable. I felt very close to Jesus through His suffering.

"Into your hands O Lord I commend my spirit.

Hide me underneath the shadow of your wings.

Save us O lord while waking and guard us while sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace"

Clay Bowl Life

Clay bowl of life.

Once filled with blossom, fruit and

tree,

deep roots within God's family.

Then suddenly

I am no longer able, to cradle

my bowl of life

to even be a wife, a priest, a mum.

I cannot swallow

or even follow in the footsteps of my physio.

My brain is bursting, slowly dying.

My body lying in this noisy metal bed;

with hammers pounding in my head.

Swirling, whirling round.

Deep, burning sounds and piercing lights,

disturb my nights.

A fragile bowl as dreams dissolve.

Poured out and bare

my bowl lies empty in my hands.

A silent prayer.

A trickling hope that God will fill my bowl,

refresh this parched and thirsty soul;

help me to know His presence and His peace.

Pour love until the brim is breached

and rivers rise around my feet

and fruit trees grow.

And blossom falls again onto my fragile soul,

as healing flows, from this clay bowl.

THE WOMEN'S REFUGE

I have recently met with the ladies from the Refuge and the following is the list they have given me regarding the most urgently needed items:-

Curtains, things for the kitchen

Crockery, cooking utensils ie mixing bowls etc.

Any items that would be useful to ladies moving out of the Refuge and into their own home.

Food including tea, coffee

As the time draws nearer, things for Christmas

Small gift bags containing things such as diaries ,pens, pencils, note books.

They will also need cellotape, gift tags, mince pies, puddings, chocolates

And other gifts.

*Thank you to you all for all your past support for this worthy cause
Lenore*

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

SOCIAL GROUP PROGRAMME UNTIL MAY 2018

December

Saturday 9th Christmas Coffee Morning Christmas Gifts etc

January 2018

Friday 19th **BARN DANCE**

February

Saturday 3rd Coffee Morning

Friday 16th Soup Lunch

March

Saturday 3rd Coffee Morning

Friday 16th Soup Lunch

April

Friday 20th Soup Lunch

May

Saturday 5th Coffee Morning

Friday 18th Soup Lunch

Thank you very much for all your support during the past year

BARN DANCE

FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

DANCING TO SQUEEZUM

**SUPPER CONSISTING OF HOT VEGETABLE
SOUP, BREAD, APPLE PIE AND CREAM**

SOFT DRINKS

**IF YOU WISH SOMETHING ALCOHOLIC TO
DRINK PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WINE**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM SOCIAL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

£6.50

THE CHRISTIAN HEALING MINISTRY

PART 1 WHAT IS CHRISTIAN HEALING?

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on earth, much of his ministry was directed towards the sick, as even superficial reading of the Gospels will show. Some were sick in body, others in mind and spirit. It made no difference to him because he saw people as needing to be made whole. He still does.

Not only did he exercise a ministry of healing; he told his disciples (the early church) to continue to do so in His name. This has never been rescinded. All down the Christian centuries the Church has retained this ministry, but the last 100 years has seen a particular renewal of interest and concern. Very many churches, including our own, are taking seriously his command to 'preach the Kingdom, heal the sick' (Luke 9:2) and pray for their recovery.

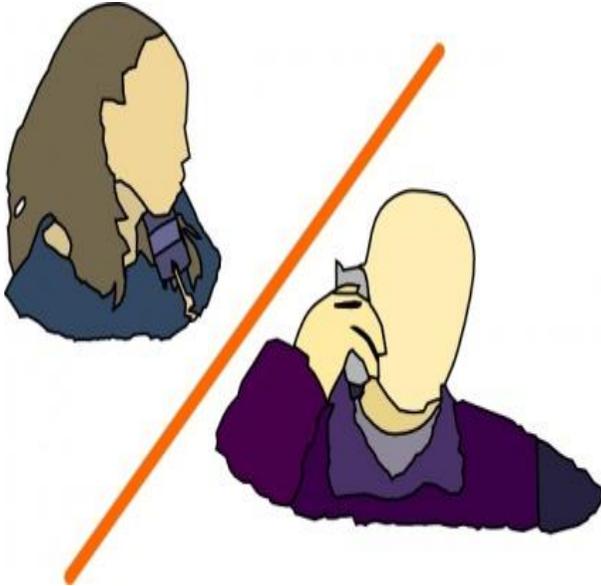
WHAT IS SICKNESS?

'Sickness' is a very wide term. It is not confined to physical illness, but takes in the mental and psychological stresses to which we are all prone. These may include anxieties over relationships, family matters, work, the future – you name it.

'Dis-ease' may sum it up. None of us are completely at ease in every part of our being.

This is taken from the healing leaflet produced some time ago, the healing team felt it should be put into the 'Gossip' over a period of three months for all to read and digest, just in case they had not read before and to strengthen the healing within the church.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER CHAIN



Judith 666633

Sue 664592

Sally650778

Iris 664613

Jean 669622

John 07530689700

Jaqui 667589

Jane 07775663385

Barbara and Gikes

Peter 663374

Lois 667971

If you are in need of prayer please use the 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 the need. This does not in any way take the place of the Sunday Healing Prayer ministry but is in addition to it.

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.john.elder@virgin.net
Churchwardens	Mr Grahame Woodward	01823 663236
	Mrs Christine Winhall	01823 663253
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Jenny Bache	01823 664390
Stewardship & Gift Aid	Mrs Alison Woodward	01823 663236
Director of Music	Mr John Young	01823 663157
PCC Secretary		
Mothers' Union	Contact Pat Andrews 664857 or Joyce Norrish 669633	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Julie Morton	01823 661996