

Prayer Diary – April 2018

“They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.” Luke 24.33-35

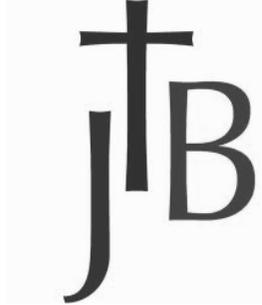
Please pray for...

1st Easter Day: gracious God, we thank you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus
2nd young people preparing to sit exams this summer
3rd oceans free of plastic
4th the Children's Hospice South West
5th all who use the Tarka Line
6th the Park Lane Care Home, and all who live and work there
7th couples planning to marry this summer
8th Devon's County Councillors, and their new chair, Ray Radford
9th the feast of the Annunciation; we remember the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary giving her the news of her pregnancy, and pray for all mothers and all who long to be mothers
10th young people struggling to find somewhere to live
11th Andy, Carolyn and their family
12th the Fairtrade shop on Bear Street
13th those who live alone

14th tomorrow's APCMs
15th our neighbouring churches in and around Barnstaple
16th the homeless
17th the work of hospital and prison chaplains
18th this morning's Cake Club
19th Cathy, Steve and their family
20th the North Devon Hospice
21st the Men's Prayer Breakfast
22nd the North Devon District Hospital
23rd everyone at Mini Music
24th those who live in the Alms Houses in Bishops Tawton
25th all those who take God's word to dangerous parts of the world
26th the Devon Air Ambulance
27th our local foodbanks
28th Christians Against Poverty
29th safety on our roads
30th the work being done to find the next Bishop of Crediton

You can find details of our daily Bible readings for this month at www.wordlive.org/Session/Classic

St John the Baptist Churches, Newport and Bishops Tawton



Parish Bulletin – April 2018

Happy Easter!

Details of all our services for Easter Sunday are inside: if you're an early bird why not join us for the Sunrise Service at 6.15am on the top of Codden Hill? You'll need to wrap up warm, but's well worth setting the alarm the night before to see the sun come up on this most joyful of mornings. You might even bump in to the Archdeacon of Barnstaple who's been able to join us up there for the last couple of years; he's contributed a thoughtful piece to this month's Bulletin, looking at what we fill our lives with and the need to make some space among all that clutter for the good news of Jesus. Inside you'll also find the dates and times of this year's APCMs. We use these to review all that we've been up to over the last 12 months and it's always a surprise to find out how much we've forgotten! We also get to make some plans for the next year, and you may have some questions to ask about your part in that.

If you have any news or information for next month's Parish Bulletin then please send it to bishops.tawton@johnthebaptist.org.uk, or you can ring Dave Lewis on 01271 312904.

www.johnthebaptist.org.uk
www.facebook.com/StJohntheBaptistChurchesBarnstaple

Loving into New Life: Dr Mark Butchers, Archdeacon of Barnstaple

My Mum was once an avid collector - not expensive antiques, but things sought and bought from junk shops and market stalls. She's stopped doing it now - she's not really fit enough anymore; and in any case her house is simply chock a block!

I remember going with her into junk shops. There at the back would be a tatty looking chest of drawers. Pine was her passion. It would look a right mess: peeling paint, wobbly feet, a handle missing. I would look at it and see a right mess: peeling paint, wobbly feet, a handle missing, and barely give it a second glance. Mum would look at it and see what it could become with a lot of TLC and elbow grease. Her house is full of pieces that she has lovingly restored. She saw past how they were to how they could be.

Some people have a knack of doing this with tumble down houses. Others can do it with overgrown gardens, or an unpromising set of ingredients in the fridge. All of them are lifting their eyes above the here and now to see the potential.

I suspect that often human beings are better at doing this with objects than people. A chest of drawers, a house, a garden – we can envisage how those could be. But a person, especially someone we find difficult or whose behaviour we deplore... well, that's trickier.

Jesus was of course a past master at it. He had that ability to see people as God saw them, not just how they were at that moment, but why they were how they were, and what they could become. He rounded out their past and their future...and as a result he loved them into new life. Think of Mary Magdalene, mired in a life that had abused her and trapped her. Think of Zacchaeus, the pompous little tax collector sitting in his tree, finding salvation through Jesus' care for him.

Throughout April, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a reminder to us that for God there are no dead ends, no brick walls. Even death can be overcome. Nothing is impossible for God. No-one is written off, because by God's grace and power, they can change their spots.

Who do we know who needs loving into new life?

Sunday Services in April

Sunday 1st 6.15am Sunrise Service on **Codden Hill**

8am Holy Communion at **Newport**

9.30am Family Service of Holy Communion and Easter Celebration at **Newport**

11am Family Service of Holy Communion and Easter Celebration at **Bishops Tawton**

6.30pm Evening Praise at **Newport**

Sunday 8th 9.30am Holy Communion and Junior Church at **Newport**

11am Morning Prayer at **Bishops Tawton**

7.30pm Worship and Prayer at **Newport**

Sunday 15th 8am Holy Communion at **Newport**

9.30am All Age Praise at **Newport**

11am Holy Communion at **Bishops Tawton**, followed by Bring and Share Lunch and APCM

6.30pm Evening Praise with Breaking of Bread at **Newport**, followed by APCM

Sunday 22nd 9.30am Sunday Communion at **Newport** with Early Bird Service in the Church Hall

11am Morning Praise at **Bishops Tawton**

Sunday 29th 10.30am Joint Service of Holy Communion followed by Bring and Share Lunch at **Newport**

Every **Thursday** 9am Prayer Time at **Newport** followed by Breaking of Bread at 9.30am

April Events

Every **Monday** 7.30am-9.30am Soul Space at **Newport**

Every **Monday** 2pm Mini Music at **Newport** (not April 2nd)

Every **Wednesday** 10am Cake Club at **Newport**

Every **Wednesday** 10am Club for adults with disabilities in **Newport Hall**

Monday 2nd and **Monday 16th** 12.30pm Bible Lunch at **Newport Hall**

Thursday 12th 2pm Friendship Circle at **Newport**

Saturday 14th 9.30am Prayer Breakfast at **Bishops Tawton**

Saturday 21st 8am Men's Prayer Breakfast at **Newport**