

News from St John the Evangelist Church

6 Burford Road, Carterton

July 2021

Welcome to worship!



This month's thoughts are from Billie Tweedy

In my experience, there's nothing quite like being told not to do something to make it almost impossible to avoid it...A month ago, in a meeting, the speaker threw in an apparently random line about not thinking about blue elephants, and I'm pretty confident that for the next couple of minutes nobody managed to think about anything else at all. Apologies if you are now all busily pondering the same thing...May I call you back, for a minute or two at least? You see, though the Bible famously reminds us not to be afraid 365 times, once for every day of the year, I must confess that much of the time I seem to have been stuck on a recurrent leap day, the 366th, a day on which some degree of alarm is at least permissible. Over the past twelve months I've encountered similar feelings in more and more people, in a variety of contexts. Suddenly it seems that we have become a fearful society, aware of divisions and distress in our own communities, dreading covid, dreading redundancy, dreading meeting an unmasked stranger, dreading terrorist action at home and abroad.

Don't mistake me. There's nothing whatever to be gained by retreating, ostrich-like, to some sort of spurious safety in a world where everyone behaves beautifully and thinks exactly the same as we do. But is fear actually the enemy of faith, or a natural part of the human condition in a world which is often precarious and where suddenly we were plunged into a situation no-one was prepared for? We're told, of course, that perfect love casts out fear...but it doesn't take more than a second to examine our own hearts and recognise that we're a long, long way from reaching that particular milestone. My love is partial, sometimes conditional, lacking that self-giving heart that would show that I am making some headway as a disciple of Christ. Honestly, there's lots of room for fear to creep in...

Then God speaks and says it again. Those four little words which echo throughout Scripture...those words God whispers in our ear, if we can only calm ourselves enough to listen: "Do not be afraid". God is with us, and invites us into mature, grown-up discipleship. He calls us to be not greater than the teacher, but as like him as we can manage. And, whatever our own experiences of worry, doubt, failure and fear, God is with us in that too. The God who keeps loving count of the flight and fall of the sparrow will be with us on every step of our journey, leading us all to everlasting life.

Do not be afraid. You are loved, and God is with you.



Keeping in Touch

Websites: www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk / www.achurchnearyou.com (search for Carterton)

Church Office: office@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk / **Phone Number:** 01993 846996 (answerphone only)

Team Rector: Rev Andrew (Drew) Tweedy "rector@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk"/01993 845216 or 07393 182093 (Day off on Friday)

Team Vicar: Rev Ian Howard "teamvicar@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk" 07867 784693 (Day off on Saturday)

Lay Ministers: Mrs Billie Tweedy "billie@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk" 01993 845216 (Day off on Friday) /

Mrs Lyndsay Baker "layminister@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk" 07783 650793 (Day off on Tuesday)

Churchwardens: Alison Brown (tel: 01993 844815); Allister Holt (tel: 01993 209227)

"wardens@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk"

Home Group Leaders: Drew & Billie; Stephen Bessent (01993 844762); Sue & David Edgar (01993 845801)

Meetings on Zoom: Home Groups are meeting regularly. If you would like to join one, contact Lyndsay who will put you in touch with a group leader. The PCC continue to hold their monthly meetings via Zoom. The Clergy Team meet each Monday.

Let's Worship Together

8.00 am Sunday BCP services on the second Sunday of the month.

10.30am Thursday morning Holy Communion

No need to book for any of our services except the Informal Worship Service on the second Sunday of the month. Please book this service with Gary.

Sunday Services @ 10.30am

4 July: Holy Communion

11 July: Informal Worship

18 July: Holy Communion

25 July: Morning Worship



Let's Pray

Monthly Wednesday Prayer Sessions at 1.30pm in the Church

21 July, 18 August (provisional),
15 September, 20 October,
17 November, 15 December



We are a church that believes in the power of prayer. The bible states "*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*" 1 John, chapter 5, verses 14-15.

We have a regular prayer letter that is available at the church and on the website which we encourage everyone to use in praying for others. Also, any of the ministry team would be delighted to prayer for you at any time. If you would like to be added to the prayer list please contact Lyndsay Baker 07783 650 993, layminister@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

Let's celebrate!



Many people will have had birthdays with limited or no opportunity to celebrate with others over the past year. Let's celebrate some upcoming birthdays we know about, but I am sure there are others we don't. If you would like to be included in the birthday list, please contact the office:

Iwan Witt (3rd); Luke Monkhouse (12th); Miriam Knight (26th); Margo Brewer (28th)

Events for Children & Families

Tuesday Children's Worship @ 4.00-5.00pm in the Church Hall. Please contact Gary if you would like your primary school aged child to attend.

Sunday Youth Group for years 7-13 @ 4.00 -5.30pm in the Church Hall. Please contact Gary if you would like your child to attend.

Family Fun/Messy Church: 4 July meeting will have outside activities (4-6pm).

Holiday Club We are planning to run this 9.30am-12 noon on Monday 16 through to Friday 20 August for ages 5-11 (school year 1-6). Places are limited. A booking form can be obtained from Gary.

For information on other summer events, contact Gary Long

Call **07799 968408** or email

gary@stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

What Else is Happening?

Monthly Film Nights – 2 July 7.00pm 'FIREPROOF' (119 mins) - a fireman, whose marriage is failing, is given the ultimate challenge by his dad to save his marriage...

6 August 7.00pm: 'SOUL SURFER (102 mins)- the true story of Bethany Hamilton. A remarkable young lady decides to 'fight back' after losing her arm in a shark attack ...All are welcome! Contact Rev Ian for the Zoom link

Annual Church Meeting - after the service on **Sunday, 18 July**. If you would like to join the PCC, please submit a completed application by 16 July to the office. Forms are on the noticeboard or on our website.

Carterton Celebrates: See our car park stall on **18 July**.

25 July: Songs of Praise at 6pm in Church.

INSPIRE: We aim to restart on **Wed 28 July** at 2pm, then every 2nd and 4th Wednesday.

Further events will be announced once restrictions are

A Message from Linda Cox

Children's Society Boxes. I would like to say a massive thank you to all our 'Box Holders' for the amazing grand total of **£2,450.18**. The Children's Society have written a lovely letter of appreciation which will go up on the hall board. Their services have been greatly in demand during this pandemic, and yet their fundraising activities have been greatly reduced. We at St John's have rallied, and I am delighted to report that due to a lot of people's generosity we have raised more than ever before in a box-opening. Thanks to lots of folk who popped a note into the box because they hadn't been using cash so much, I am just blown away by this total. Some have opted to give electronically instead of using the box, either is good, if you would prefer to do that, it's not a problem. I can give you more information about that nearer to the next box opening, in the spring of 2022. So, as the Box Co-ordinator for The Children's Society, God bless you, and again thank you so much.