

St John the Baptist Churches, Bishop's Tawton & Newport, Barnstaple

Sunday 30th August – 13th Sunday after Trinity



As I sit in my study today, I can see the traffic backed up the road, and from all the reports on social media, I can see that Barnstaple is gridlocked.

When did our lives become so reliant on driving, I wonder? When I was a child I walked or cycled everywhere, my parents had one car, and it was only my dad that used it for work.

During the Covid years traffic was reduced and the news reported drops in air and noise

pollution. Where I was living at the time there was a rise in wildlife spotted roaming roads that would normally have been busy with traffic.

Jesus' first disciples travelled many hundreds of miles by foot and boat, but not by motorised vehicles. We might sometimes look back and think that their lives were hard without our modern inventions, designed to make life easier and to give us more time. Yet I can't help but feel jealous of a time where walking was the most common way of getting from A to B, and the time would have been used for thinking and having conversations.

I don't expect that sitting in traffic is the best opportunity for conversion experiences like that of Saul's on his way to Damascus or meeting Christ like on the road to Emmaus. Which leads me to think that now is a good time for us to plan a walking pilgrimage, where we can invite friends and family members to join us. An opportunity to talk about Jesus and pray together.

Rev'd Ally

Diary Dates

Mon 31st Sept: Bank Holiday, No morning or evening prayer.

Tues 1st Sept: Practising the Way course, 7pm Newport

Wed 2nd Sept: Pop-up café, 10am Bishop's Tawton

Sat 5th Sept: Jumble sale, 10am Newport

Sat 5th Sept: Coffee Morning, 10:30am Bishop's Tawton, with Churchyard tidy-up

Mon-Fri: 8am Morning Prayer@ Bishop's Tawton

Mon-Fri: 6pm Evening Prayer @Newport

Vicar: Rev'd Ally Hope (01805 439085) revallyhope@yahoo.com or vicar@stjohnsnewport.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES 30th August

**9:30am Communion
at Newport
11am Communion
at Bishops Tawton**

Readings:

Micah 6.6-8 and John 15.1-8

Online service of Morning Prayer:

https://youtu.be/6_7CHqsdHZg

The Collect:

Almighty God,
You search and know us:
May we rely on you in strength
And rest in you in weakness,
Now and in all our days;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for...

Sunday 30th: National Grief Awareness Day

Monday 31st: everyone who has to work this Bank Holiday Monday

Tuesday 1st: Creationtide

Wednesday 2nd: our outreach to children, families and young people

Thursday 3rd: the NHS, carers and key workers

Friday 4th: the International Day of Charity

Saturday 5th: the Street Pastors out in Barnstaple tonight