King's Way Benefice News

Living and sharing the Good News of Christ by serving East Bristol

Sunday 30th August

Collect for Today — The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Worship Services on Sunday 30th August

St Michael's	**10.00am**	King's Way Benefice Joint Holy Communion	Rev. Nicola Callen & Rev. Canon Trevor Denley
King's Way Benefice		**No Junior Church**	

Worship Services on Sunday 6th September

St Michael's	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev. Nicola Callen
King's Way Benefice		**No Junior Church**	
St Aidan's	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Matt Stone
St John's	10.30am	Worship for All	Iola Davies

Lectionary readings for 30th August	Romans 12. 9-end;	Matthew 16. 21-end;
Lectionary readings for 6th Sept		

Regular Meetings King's Way Benefice

Mondays	**Home Group** 2.30pm—4.00pm at Wesley Cottage (for more details please email anthony.hick@methodist.org.uk or phone 07726 342744)
Tuesdays	**Morning Prayer** 9.15am at St John's
Wednesdays	**Morning Prayer NOW 9.00am** at St Aidan's
Thursdays	**Holy Communion** 10am at St John's Church followed by Coffee and Chat **Coffee and Chat** 10am -12pm at St Aidan's **Home Group** 7.30pm (now meeting face to face every fortnight, speak to Rob Towler for more information)
Saturdays	**Bible Study** 10am -11.30am at St John's

Thought for the week by Rev Matt Stone

As most of you will no doubt be aware Dolly Parton died on Tuesday.

She was 80 years old and had spent the best part of eight decades being entirely, unapologetically herself. The world is a less bright place and a little quieter for it.

I have felt a range of emotions of sadness and shock and grief, but most of all I feel a deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness for such an extraordinary life.

I've been thinking about what it was that made her so universally loved. It wasn't just the songs, though the songs were wonderful. I think it was something simpler, Dolly seemed to know just who she was, and she got on with it, and somehow that gave everyone else permission to do the same and catch up.

She once said: "Find out who you are and do it on purpose." That's probably not as easy as it sounds. Most of us spend a lot of time trying to be what other people need us to be, or what feels safe or right or proper or expected.

Dolly didn't seem to bother with any of that. She grew up in a one room cabin in the Smoky Mountains with twelve siblings and very little money. She became one of the best selling artists of all time. She built a library programme that has given over two hundred million books to children around the world. She helped fund the Moderna covid vaccine. In the days since her passing I've heard anecdotes of other lesser known funding she has given to medical research and causes. When she accepted the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy in 2022, she explained her approach to giving in the most straightforward way imaginable: "I just see a need and if I can fill it then I will."

It doesn't seem like there was no theology or strategy to it just open eyes and open hands.

She also knew that life doesn't come without difficulty. "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." She said that a lot and it feels like she meant it. She lost her husband of 58 years just over a year ago, faced her final illness largely in that grief, and kept going.

I don't know what relation Dolly had with God. But what I do know is that God worked through her in profound and real ways to bless the world. That's something to think about!

What sustained her, she said, wasn't formal religion. She found God as a girl in an abandoned church building near her family's house, a place people used to drink, with Bible verses still on the walls. She felt a presence there. And she carried it with her for the rest of her life. "I go to that God core inside me," she said once, in one of the few moments she got specific about what faith actually meant to her day to day.

There's something in her life that feels close to what I understand the gospel to be about. Not performing goodness for an audience. Not waiting for permission. Just becoming, as fully as possible, the person you were made to be, and offering that to the world with open hands.

Rest well, Dolly.

The next King's Way Benefice

Joint Holy Communion is

Sunday 30th August

10.00am (please note time) at St Michael's Church

All are welcome!

St Johns Junior Church Family Picnic- All welcome!

Sunday 6th September from 12.30pm

Meet at the gazebo to the left of the playground as you arrive in Vassals Park

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR PICNIC!

Join us after lunch for games- cricket, croquet, den building, bubbles & lots more!

STARTING TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

ALL WELCOME

A prayer for a new School year

As the School Year Begins Lord Jesus Christ,
as a child, you increased in wisdom and stature,
you listened to your teachers and asked them questions.
Bless those who learn that they may grow in the knowledge of their Maker,
Redeemer, Life-giver, and your glorious world.
Bless those who teach, that they may share the wisdom
they have received from above and that they may do their work
with patience and love that reflect your mercy that endures forever.

Amen.

Praying for ....

We commit to praying for 1 month

(unless otherwise advised)

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Lead Minister for St Aidan's	Rev. Pippa White	
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	Sue Crowder	0117 9750947
Wardens for St John's	Dave Higham	07898 621683
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Warden for St Michael's	Trudy Britton	07939 917256

King's Way Benefice Office:
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Working hours: Mon 9am-1pm, Tue 1pm-5pm & Thurs 9am-1pm.
Office opening hours Monday am and Thursday am.

The newsletter this week has been sent out by Amy Donaldson, Benefice Administrator