King's Way Benefice News

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

Sunday 4th October

Collect for Today — The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love, that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Worship Services on Sunday 4th October

St Michael's	9.00am	Patronal Festival & Harvest Service	Rev. Anthony Hick, Methodist
King's Way Benefice		**No Junior Church**	
St Aidan's	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Matt Stone
St John's	10.30am	Harvest Service	Rev. Nicola Callen & Rev. Diane Simms

Worship Services on Sunday 11th October

St Michael's	9.00am	Holy Communion	Rev. Nicola Callen
King's Way Benefice		**No Junior Church**	
St Aidan's	10.30am	Harvest Service	Rev. Canon Paul Denyer
St John's	10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev. Nicola Callen

Lectionary readings for 4th Oct	Philippians 3. 4b-14;	Matthew 21. 33-end;
Lectionary readings for 11th Oct	Philippians 4. 1-9;	Matthew 22. 1-14;

Regular Meetings King's Way Benefice

Mondays	**Home Group** 2.30pm - 4.00pm at Wesley Cottage (for more details, email: anthony.hick@methodist.org.uk or phone 07726 342744)
Tuesdays	**Morning Prayer** 9.15am at St John's
Wednesdays	**Morning Prayer** 9 am at St Aidan's
Thursdays	**Holy Communion** 10am at St John's Church followed by Coffee & Chat **Coffee & 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

This week the church marks the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. I wanted to take a moment to pause and think about this man, the ministry he was involved in and the lasting impressions and blessings he has left.

Francis was born in 1181 in Umbria, central Italy, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. As a young man he lived extravagantly, fought in local wars, and perhaps had a bit of a reputation about him. In his mid-twenties he experienced profound and disorienting encounters with God that turned his life inside out. He met a leper on the road and instead of being repulsed he dismounted and embraced the man giving him his cloak and his money. Francis felt an indescribable sweetness as he realised that he had in fact embraced Jesus. In another moment, kneeling in the church in San Damiano, Francis heard the voice of Christ from the crucifix saying; '..go and repair my church which has fallen into ruin.'

His life was changed. He gave away everything, embraced radical poverty, began caring for lepers, and gathered around him a community of brothers who wanted to follow Jesus in the most literal and embodied way possible. He died in 1226, aged around 44, having spent his final years in pain and near blindness. He was canonised just two years later.

One of the many things that makes Francis remarkable, inspirational, and what makes him feel so alive and relevant today, is the way he related to the natural world. He saw creation as family. Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Sister Water, Brother Fire. Everything alive, everything sacred, everything participating in the praise of God.

He wrote the Canticle of the Sun near the end of his life, in his native Umbrian dialect, one of the earliest pieces of Italian literature. It is a song of praise, earthy and joyful, offered through and with creation rather than above it.

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
yours are the praises, the glory, the honour and all blessing.
Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and beautiful.
Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
and clouds and storms, and all the weather,
through which you give your creatures sustenance.
Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water;
she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.
Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten the night.
Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who feeds us and rules us,
and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Francis invites us into a way of seeing where all of us, human and more than human, are held in the same love, offering the same praise. In a week when the news is full of environmental crisis and political noise, it feels good to come back to Francis.

Harvest Services in the Benefice

4th October @ St John's

4th October @ Patronal Festival & Harvest St Michael's

Readings at St Michael's: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 for Harvest
& Revelation 12: 7-12 and John 1: 47-51 for Patronal

11th October @ St Aidan's

Urgent request for the Cinderella performance

Message from Paul Denyer, Director of 'Cinderella', to be performed next January at Saint Aidan's. We need to fill a gap in the cast. Bambino, one of the ugly sisters, is no longer able to take part. Unless we find someone soon, we will have to reconsider whether we can put on the pantomime.
This would be a pity.

If you know anyone who might be willing to step up, please let me know. My mobile number is 07539 356222.

Many thanks, Paul

Cinderella needs Screening!!

I am sure that she has already been put on film at some time, as well as numerous performances on stage, but that is not what this is about!
She will be appearing, live, at St. Aidan's for a couple of nights at the end of January 2027, performed by the Kings Way Benefice Players. As part of the stage setup, we need some screens – the sort that used to be pulled around hospital beds – and were wondering if anyone in the Benefice had anything like that, or knows someone who has.

If you do, please contact Bernard on 9407142 or merrickqs@blueyonder.co.uk

A prayer for Harvest

Loving God, we thank you for the beauty and abundance of your creation.

Thank you for the food we have, for those who grow and prepare it, and for all the gifts you provide.

We pray for those who are hungry, for families facing hardship, and for people in need around the world.

Help us to be thankful for what we have,
generous in sharing with others,
and caring for the world you have given us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Praying for .... Ann Jurish and Emily Jurish

Martin & Susan Smith

Trisha Clark

Andrew Wiltshire

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Focal Minister for St Michael's	Rev Nicola Callen	07837 287455
	revnicola@kingswaybenefice.org	
Lead Minister for St Aidan's	Rev. Pippa White	
	rev.pippawhite@gmail.com	
Wardens for St Aidan's	Neil Baker	0117 9329228
	Sue Crowder	0117 9750947
Wardens for St John's	Dave Higham	07898 621683
	Nigel Seville	07940 584498
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