



This week I am writing to you from the clergy conference in Cirencester; yesterday it rained all afternoon, so I felt very much at home!

This is my first clergy conference, and I had no idea what to expect. I was unsure of dress code, what I needed to bring with me, or what would be expected of me. I believe that this is true for people visiting church for the first time. Which leads me to ask, 'How can we make people more at ease with coming to a church

service when they have never been to one before?' First impressions are incredibly important; they can either make a person want to stay and return or run away never to return.

Our gospel reading for this Sunday says, 'And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows'. How do we make each person feel valued and loved on stepping through the doors of our church? It is a responsibility that we all hold, each one of us can have a positive impact when it comes to being welcoming and hospitable. I will be exploring ways of making our churches more accessible over the next few weeks and months, if you have any ideas, then do please speak to me about them.

Rev'd Ally

Diary Dates

Mon 22nd June: Archdeacon's visitation @ Trinity Church, 7pm

Mon 22nd June: Mini Music, Newport @ 11am

Mon 22nd June: Cuppa & Chat, Arti's Too, Cross St @ 2pm

Tue 23rd June: Toddlers @ Bishop's Tawton

Wed 24th June: Pop-Up Café at Bishops Tawton, 10am

Fri 26th June: Memorial service for Jonathan Richards @ Christchurch, Bear Street, 2pm

Wed 1st July: Mentoring in Park school information evening, Newport church, 7pm

Sat 4th July: Elijah concert in Newport Church, 7:30pm

Every weekday morning: 8am Morning prayer, Bishop's Tawton church

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SUNDAY SERVICES 21st June

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

Readings:

Genesis 21.8-21 and Mat 10.24-39

Online service of Morning Prayer:

https://youtu.be/Egi__BXFVX4

The Collect:

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of
peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Please pray for...

Sun 21st: Fathers' Day

Mon 22nd: all those affected by the gasworks in Bickington

Tue 23rd: students waiting for their exam results

Wed 24th: hospital chaplains

Thurs 25th: John the Baptist, whose birth the church celebrates today

Fri 26th: the Mission to Seafarers

Sat 27th: the community at Lee Abbey

Every weekday evening: 6pm Evening Prayer, Newport church