



This is our second week of having morning and evening prayer in the churches and I want to tell you what an absolute joy it has been praying with others. As a priest I normally do morning and evening prayer on my own at home, but I have been yearning to pray as a community. It has been such a success that I am going to continue when I return from my two weeks of annual leave.

On Tuesday I had the privilege of listening to Bishop Mike teaching on the second part of the Sermon on the Mount. There were some real nuggets of wisdom that I hope to be able to reflect on and share with you in time, but here is one for you today. We often talk about the cost of discipleship as though it is harder or more costly than not following Jesus, but the alternative is more costly because it is the path of destruction. In this week's gospel reading Jesus tells his followers to 'come to me, all you that carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest...For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' Truly following Jesus lightens our burdens as we shake off the shackles of the secular world (money, power, beauty, fame etc).

Though the thought of giving up the things that discipleship asks of us may seem costly, the flip side is that we must then no longer worry about these things. For example, if you have no riches then you have no worry about losing them or trying to protect them. More on this and the spiritual discipline of generosity in August!

Rev'd Ally

Diary Dates

Mon 6th July: Mini Music, Newport @ 11am

Tue 7th July: Toddlers @ Bishop's Tawton

Wed 8th July: Pop-Up Café at Bishops Tawton, 10am

Fri 10th July: Bible Study Group, Newport @11am

Sat 11th July: Men's breakfast, The Wee Snug @ 9am – please

contact Martin to let him know if you are coming and to put in your breakfast order by the 8th July.

Saturday 4th – Monday 20th July: Rev'd Ally on annual leave

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

SUNDAY SERVICES 5th July

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

Readings:

Romans 7.15-25a and Matthew
11.16-19, 25-end

Online service of Morning Prayer:

<https://youtu.be/klibYJyOn9s>

The Collect:

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the
gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Please pray for...

Sun 5th: those of our church family who
can't join us on a Sunday

Mon 6th: our outreach to young people,
children and families

Tue 7th: farmers and the land and
livestock in their care

Wed 8th: the people who collect your
rubbish and recycling

Thu 9th: the NHS, carers and key
workers

Fri 10th: the Children's Hospice
Southwest

Sat 11th: the community at Lee Abbey