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

Sunday 1 Nov – All Saints Day



Dear Friends,

The A377 past Umberleigh is currently closed due to Highways eventually repairing part of the road that has had temporary traffic lights on it for about 5 years.

There is the official detour or 'the other' one. I'm using 'the other' route, which although stays relatively close to the way that I usually go, is quite different. It seems to go through different countryside compared to the views that I am used to and tonight driving home in the dark for the first time this autumn it felt like travelling in a different land.

Our journey through life can be familiar, safe, we like the views that we see, and we feel comfortable knowing the way we are travelling – rather like my usual journey to work. However, at times we are prompted, nudged or even thrown away from this route that we like into unknown territory. This can feel unsettling, and a bit of a worry.

Psalm 119: 105 states 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path' and Deuteronomy 31: 8 states 'The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.'

Both these verses are examples of the comfort we need for those times when we find ourselves unsettled and on an unfamiliar pathway. There is that reminder that we can depend on God always being with us. We can depend on God's word for guidance, as car headlights illuminate the route to show us dangers, we have protection from those potholes that life can bring.

Prayers for the week ahead of us all, let our journeys onto any unfamiliar routes be the prompt from God to start a lovely adventure in good company.

Jo
Church warden, Bishops Tawton and LLM

Diary Dates:
Mon 2nd: Mini Music at Newport
Tues 3rd: Toddlers at Bishops Tawton
Wed 4th: Pop-Up Café at Bishops Tawton and Coffee Morning at Newport
Sat 7th: Monthly Coffee Morning at Bishops Tawton, 10.30 – 12 noon

SUNDAY SERVICES 1st Nov

9.30am Morning Praise at Newport
11.00am Holy Communion at Bishops Tawton
Online service of Morning Prayer:
https://youtu.be/bUdWD_2mfcs

Readings: Revelation 7: 9 – end and Matthew 5: 1 – 12

Collect for the All Saints Day:

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

As we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and the Middle East, please pray for...

Sunday 1st: the things our churches need to do to be better stewards of God's creation
Monday 2nd: International Stress Awareness Week
Tuesday 3rd: our outreach to children, families and young people
Wednesday 4th: our PCCs
Thursday 5th: the NHS, carers and key workers
Friday 6th: the services we are planning to welcome people into the church at Christmas
Saturday 7th: the maternity unit at the NDDH

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