**Westfield Church:** **Sunday July 21st**

Valerie writes: **Faithful Friends**

At home group last week we read and discussed the story of the four faithful men in Mark Chapter 2 who brought their friend to Jesus.

The crowd was so dense outside the house where Jesus was teaching, they manoeuvred their friend's mat up the steep sloping steps on the side of the house to the flat roof above. They then dug away at the earth roof top exposing beams which they removed to make a hole big enough to lower their friend carefully to Jesus' feet.

What determination they had. Not an easy task at all but one that demanded solving a problem followed by resolve, strength and resilience.

All this to bring their friend to Jesus.

*Miracle by Seamus Healey*

Not the one who takes up his bed and walks,

But the ones who have known him all along,

And carry him in.

Their shoulders numb, the ache and stoop deep locked

In their backs, the stretcher handles

Slippery with sweat. And no let up

Until he's strapped on tight, made tiltable

and raised to the roof, then lowered for healing.

Be mindful of them as they

Stand and wait.

For the burn of the paid out ropes to cool,

Their slight lightheadedness and incredulity

To pass, those who had known

him all along.

**Joan Downing** died last Sunday. Details of her funeral will be included in future notices.

**Sunday July 21st**

8.00am: BCP Holy Communion

9.30am: Holy Communion

FSW collection in church or to Kathy's house by the following Wednesday morning.

**This week**

*Wednesday:*

9.30am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Community drop in at church

1.30pm: Parents and toddlers

7.30pm: Home groups at Apple Tree Down and Cockmartins Farm, all welcome

**Sunday July 28th**

8.00am: BCP Holy Communion

9.30am: Morning Praise

**Welcome**

We hope you enjoy your visit or time with us and that you will be inspired and helped. We gather together every week to encourage one another to be equipped as live out our Christian discipleship at home, at work or wherever we are placed.

During the week, there are several different services and small group meetings, each of which has a distinctive feel and tempo. In all of them we reflect on our own lives and the wonderful promise of forgiveness and try to learn more of God and his son Jesus in a way that will change our lives and behaviour. *You are welcome to attend any or all of them.*

**Popular questions…**

*What about communion?*

Everyone who normally receives communion is welcome to share in the bread and wine (which is served by the vicar who dips the bread wafer into the wine before handing it to you). If you would like a blessing, but not communion, please keep your hands to your sides when the bread is offered to you. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten free bread is available (ask the vicar at the table). If you want communion in your seat, please say so.

*Can I have communion at home?*

If you, or someone you know, are unable to get to our services and would like to have communion in their home, please email dawnwestfield@aol.com and we can arrange for one of our licenced lay ministers to visit and share the bread and the wine using the approved liturgy.

*Children, what happens if they are noisy?*

We love having children in church so don’t worry about them making a noise or moving around.

*Dogs and other pets, are they really welcome?*

You are always welcome to bring your dog to any or all our services. Typically, there is at least one dog at the 8.00am Sunday service and the 9.30am Wednesday service. There is often a dog at the 9.30am service on Sunday.

*Toilets: where are they?*

Our toilets just inside the church hall. There is an accessible toilet and baby changing facilities.

*Is there a collection?*

We do not want anyone to feel any obligation to give to the work of the church or put anything in the offering bag or plate. Most services don’t have a collection.

*Baptisms, weddings, blessings, funerals and thanksgivings – can I have them in church?*

To arrange a celebration or ceremony at St John’s, please email to Sandi Wickens revsandiwickens@gmail.com or call 07395 106514 to speak to her.

*Can I make prayer requests?*

If you would like a situation prayed about, please contact Dawn 01424 255423 /
 0750 7745 159 or email dawnwestfield@aol.com.

*What’s happening in the next week or two?*

Sundays 8.00am: BCP Holy Communion

First and third Sunday of each month 9.30am: Holy Communion

Second Sunday 9.30am: Café Church in the church hall

Fourth Sunday 9.30am: Morning praise in church

Tuesdays (1st, 3rd & 5th) 7.30pm: Prayer Group at 24 Greenacres

Wednesdays 9.30am: Holy Communion

Wednesdays 10.30am: Community drop in at church

Wednesdays: 1.30pm: Parents and toddlers in church

Wednesdays 7.00pm Alpha in church hall

Second Saturday of each month: 3.00pm: Messy Church in church hall

*Who can I contact?*

Priest in charge: Rev Sandi Wickens –07395 106514 revsandiwickens@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Dawn Archer - 07507 745159 dawnwestfield@aol.com
 and Suzanne Bunton –07753 430197

Safeguarding: Cathy Williamson - 07765 258012,

Parish administrator: Jayne Stevens – 07539652000 paforfgw@gmail.com