

ITCHEN
VALLEY



CHURCHES

Church Matters...

3rd May 2020

Easter 4

Welcome

Welcome to this week's Church Matters, although we are not congregating at this time we do hope you will take part in our online service at 10am each Sunday, further information inside.

Today's Service

Matthew 18:12-14

Parable of the Lost Sheep

If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away! In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish.

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things
which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Notice Board

In view of the current emergency, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a statement under which public worship is now suspended and Churches are closed until further notice. This will mean that we will not be holding any services in our churches for the foreseeable future. We will instead be broadcasting our service and emailing you a link to be able to follow it at 10am on each Sunday, knowing that others will be doing the same in their homes. It will be left on our website each week, so if you are not able to tune in on Sunday, you can do this at any time afterwards.

The link for this service will be sent to all followers of the church website www.itchenvalleychurches.org - to become a follower please add your email details in the box in the bottom right hand side of our home page so that you can be kept up to date on what the church is doing to respond to the Corona crisis.

The Bible Course NOW ONLINE - For those of us whose diaries are starting to empty and are facing days and days with little social interaction, the Bible Course is now online and maybe interesting to you - <https://itchenvalleychurches.org/the-bible-course/>

Winchester Villages Trust - To anyone who is facing hard times financially at the moment due to the current crisis The Winchester Villages Trust has been given donations by local Christians to benefit those in the Itchen Valley Parish who are in financial need at the moment and the Trust would like to invite residents to apply to receive funds. Further details including how to apply will be published on www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Free National Phone Line - this week Archbishop Justin launched Daily Hope, a free national phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services by telephone for those members of our communities who do not have access to the internet, and may be most isolated at this time. The new free phone line is **available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044**. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19. We hope that it will be a useful tool offering hope and encouragement to those in you who are struggling.

For Your Prayers

Please continue to pray for Loulou as she remains in hospital and for Dan, Anoushka, Raphie and baby Felix. We give thanks that Olivia Cox's father has battled the virus and is a lot better.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold. For the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

Amen

We pray for the lonely, anxious and confused people of our Parish, please Lord guide us to be the support that they need at this time.

Our churches are now closed - we may not be able to gather as we normally do, but we're still here if you need prayerful or practical support.

Useful Information

Contacts:

Rector

Revd Alex Pease

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LLM

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Parish Book-keeping - Janet Denyer, The Parish Office, St John's Church, Avington Lane, Itchen Abbas, Winchester, SO21 1BJ; accounts@itchenvalleychurches.org

The Hub and the Parish Office at St John's, Itchen Abbas. Office hours are generally 9am-1pm, weekdays; 01962 779845. Please call or email to make an appointment.

Church Matters - If you would like a notice to be put in Church Matters please send by email to Beccy Clark at admin@itchenvalleychurches.org by 1pm the previous Wednesday. If you wish to receive Church Matters weekly by email then please contact Beccy. You can also download it from the website www.itchenvalleychurches.org

Our Online Family Worship will take place on Zoom this Sunday and will start at 10am this Sunday and will be led by Tim Clapp and Julia Wright will be telling the story. Please view the post on the website about how to join this service.

Our next service to be broadcast will be Parish Communion at 10am on Sunday 10th May, further information to follow.

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

to receive regular updates from the Parish
please follow us by registering on the homepage