

ITCHEN
VALLEY



CHURCHES

Church Matters...

21st June 2020
2nd Sunday after Trinity

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

Romans 7:7 - 8:4

Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Notice Board

Following the Government guidance on opening Churches for private prayer, we are working hard to formulate a plan for doing this safely and look forward to announcing this plan as soon as we are able. We will 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 any time afterwards.

The Bible Course ONLINE - 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 The Winchester Villages Trust has been given donations by local Christians to benefit those in the 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

Opening our Churches - As a first step to opening our churches for worship in the future, the Government and the National Church have issued guidance on re-opening for private prayer only. This is wonderful news for all of us who have found it very difficult not to have our church buildings open for prayer and contemplation during the pandemic. We are working through this guidance and preparing policies and risk assessments to ensure that we can open safely with consideration for those who want to visit our buildings for private prayer and those that look after our churches. Once we have been through this process, we will let you know what we are planning, so that you are aware of what to expect. Our first step will be the live streaming of holy communion on the 28th June. Soon after one church will re-open for private prayer once a week to begin with. The plan will be to open all our churches in time. *Sara Mason, Chair Parish Covid Committee*

Love your neighbour...who's a stranger - Lockdown has been tough for so many of us. But one upside in the Itchen Valley has been getting to know our neighbours through our local WhatsApp (and other neighbour support groups) much better than we might have done before. I want us as a church to capitalise on this and to get to know our neighbours even better. I want to launch a new initiative! The idea is that each of us who reads this, invites one other couple or family to tea or drinks in their garden (only meeting outside - with social distancing (2 metres apart) - and no more than six at a time). Very straightforward - it's the sort of thing that we might be doing anyway with our local friends. But this time I would like to add one twist - that we look down the list of our immediate neighbours and first invite the couple or family that we know the least! In this way we can build on the situation of closer ties with our neighbours that lockdown and Covid19 has placed us in. Please do take a selfie and let me know how you get on so that we can report back on this page!

For Your Prayers

We pray for people making plans to re-open our churches for live-streaming and private prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake

Amen

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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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 Valley Worship service this Sunday will be via Zoom, a link will be sent out prior to the service and you can log on from 9.45am. The service will be led by Revd. Alex Pease, Tim Clapp will be preaching, Loulou Stirrup will be speaking in Everyday Lives, James Greig will be our intercessor, Tim Clapp will be leading us in worship and Judith Mezger will be reading the lesson.

Our next service will be Parish Communion at 10am on Sunday 28th June, further information to follow.

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

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please follow us by registering on the homepage