

ITCHEN
VALLEY



CHURCHES

Church Matters...

22nd November 2020
Sunday next before Advent

Welcome

Welcome to this week's Church Matters, although we are not all able to congregate at this time we do hope you will enjoy taking part in our service either in Church or online.

Today's Service

Reading

Matthew 25.31- 46

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Notice Board

Prayer During Lockdown - please join us in praying for an end to the virus on every Thursday and in particular at 6pm on Thursday evenings. The church bell in your village will toll to remind you. Please do join in by ringing hand bells at your door. You may also want to light a candle and place it in a window or show some other symbol of light in a dark world.

Virtual Advent Calendar - Sadly this year, due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to let our Posada travel to the homes of the families in our Parish. However, we have a new and exciting idea! We are going to produce a virtual Advent Calendar. We would like families to get involved and to illustrate a different part of the Christmas story. These creations will then be added to the website, one a day, during December. It's as close as we can get to opening a communal advent calendar door each day. If you would like to take part, we will give you a particular bible verse to share with your child or children. We then need the budding young artists in your house to produce some artistic creation that illustrates your verse - this could be a collage, a drawing, a painting, a tableau involving dolls and other toys around the house, or even a freeze frame photo of your family enacting the verse. The more creative the better! You then need to take a photo of the creation and send it to Beccy, we will post a different verse, picture and photograph each day for the followers of our website all through Advent. If your children would like to be involved please email beccy on admin@itchenvalleychurches.org ASAP.

STOP PRESS - if any adults (or big children) would like to take part, please let Beccy know in the same way!

Private Prayer - Our Churches continue to be open for private prayer at this time as follows:

Open for private prayer

between 10am and 2pm on the following days:

Wednesdays - St Mary's, Easton

Fridays - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sundays - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

St Mary's, Avington is open every day between 9am and 5pm

For Your Prayers

**We pray for those in our Parish, or who are known to us,
who are suffering at the moment - may they know your
comfort at this time.**

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Loving God, at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
our people hope.
Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. 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.

**We may 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

rector@itchenvalleychurches.org

01962 779845

LLM

Mr Gerry Stacey

Gerry.Stacey@biblesociety.org.uk

01962 620263

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. At this time Beccy is working from home.

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

Services

Today

Parish Communion by Zoom only coming from St Mary's, Easton
Led by Revd. Alex Pease, LLM Gerry Stacey will be preaching,
Dan Day-Robinson will lead us in prayer and Frits Janssen will be reading the lesson

Sunday 29th November

Parish Communion by Zoom coming from St Mary's, Easton

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

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