

ITCHEN  
VALLEY



CHURCHES

# Church Matters...

**29th November 2020**

**Advent Sunday**

**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

**Mark 13:24-end**

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### Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to  
cast away the works of  
darkness and to put on the  
armour of light, now in the  
time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus  
Christ came to us in great  
humility; that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in  
his glorious majesty to judge  
the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life  
immortal; through him 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.

**Christingle** - Our annual Christingle service will take place on Sunday 6th December at 4pm. Unfortunately, due to Covid guidelines the numbers able to attend will be severely limited. We would still love you to be able to take part in this service so we will also be broadcasting it on Zoom, if you would like to be involved please let us know on [admin@itchenvallychurches.org](mailto:admin@itchenvallychurches.org) and we will arrange to get a Christingle kit delivered to you so you can make your Christingle during the service. The kit will also include instructions and log in details for the Zoom service. Please contact us by Wednesday 2nd December so we can put enough kits together.

**Christmas Services** - as soon as we receive Church of England guidance, we will be opening up our Christmas services for bookings, this will firstly be done via our Church website before announcing them to the wider community.

**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

Sundays - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

St John's, Itchen Abbas is open every day between 10am and Dusk

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**

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives  
always, and particularly this Advent time.

**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](mailto:rector@itchenvalleychurches.org)

01962 779845

#### LLM

Mr Gerry Stacey

[Gerry.Stacey@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.itchenvalleychurches.org)

## Services

### Today

Parish Communion by Zoom only coming from St Mary's, Easton  
Led by Revd. Alex Pease, Tony Gaster will lead us in prayer and  
Richard Hunt will be reading the lesson

### Sunday 6th December

4pm Christingle from St Mary's, Avington and via Zoom  
6pm Advent Sung Evensong from St John's, Itchen Abbas

**Prior booking for these live services is essential**

[www.itchenvalleychurches.org](http://www.itchenvalleychurches.org)

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