

ITCHEN
VALLEY



CHURCHES

Church Matters...

14th February 2021
Sunday next before Lent

Welcome

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

Today's Service

Mark 9.2-9

Collect

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the
cross: give us grace to perceive his
glory, that we may be strengthened
to suffer with him and be changed
into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Notice Board

National Lockdown and Church Attendance - we have decided that it is best if we revert entirely to zoom for our services during National Lockdown restrictions. This will mean that although we will continue to lead services from either church or home as has been the practice over the last few months, it will not be possible for any worshippers to join us in the flesh in the churches.

Praying for those with Covid - If you are worried about a friend or relation who has Covid 19 at the moment please do email me so that we can get together a group of people to pray for them. Amazing things happen when we ask the Lord to intervene in moments of great anguish and there will be many of us who are suffering in this way at the moment. We can help bring our fears and concerns about those we love before our Father. Alex

Living in Love and Faith - This year our Lent Course is going to be a bit different. We will be doing the Living in Love and Faith Course produced by the Church of England. As many of you will know, the Church of England has for many years been engaging in a thorough exploration of issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The product of this work is the Living in Love and Faith resources which we are invited by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to consider as a parish. The course will start on Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm and will be on zoom, there will be 5 sessions in total and unfortunately, it will not be possible to join after the first session in. If you would like to find out more please take a look [here](#) to see the post on our website. If you would like to join this course please contact Alex at rector@itchenvalleychurches.org.

Electoral Roll - If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll please do contact Beccy by 10th March and she will send you an application form.

Private Prayer - Church opening times have been revised and will be open between 10am and 2pm as follows:

St Mary's, Easton - Wednesdays
St John's, Itchen Abbas - Fridays
St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy - Sundays
St Mary's, Avington - Every day by arrangement
please contact Dan at Ivy Cottage or on 07500 860949

For Your Prayers

We pray for the family of Keith Young, as they mourn his loss. We also pray for those in our Parish, or who are known to us, who are ill and suffering at the moment - may they know your comfort at this time.

Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones, distant from friends,
away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing
in all of creation, not even coronavirus,
that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers, looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far, all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know
the gift of a full and healthy life.

Keep us all in your care.

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

gstacey@easynet.co.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. Please call or email to make an appointment. 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

10am Parish Communion by Zoom

Led by Revd. Alex Pease and Sermon by Nicky Barber

Sunday 21st February

10am Valley Worship via Zoom

Diary Dates

Sunday 28th February 11am Easton ADCM by Zoom

Monday 1st March 6pm Itchen Abbas ADCM by Zoom

Saturday 6th March 10.30am Martyr Worthy ADCM by Zoom

Thursday 25th March 7pm APCM via Zoom

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

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