



Church Matters...

Sunday 4 September - 12th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome

We are so pleased to welcome you to our services today. If you are new to the parish or worshipping with us for the first time, then please do make yourself known to the person leading the service.

Parish Diary

Saturday 3 September

3pm - Marriage of Nina Burness and Charles Gallagher-Powell - St Mary's, Easton

Sunday 4 September

8am - BCP Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Vanessa Cole

10am - Morning Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
led by Tim Clapp
Organist Colin Harvey

Monday 5 September

9.30am - Little Rainbows - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Wednesday 7 September

8pm - Wednesday Night Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Saturday 10 September

3.30pm - All Age Farm Service - Grace's Farm, Martyr Worthy, SO21 1DX

Sunday 11 September

10am - Parish Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas
6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Please note: cash collections will now be taken during our services.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear
than we to pray
and to give more than either we
desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance
of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which
our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and
mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 103: 1-5,8-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his
benefits**

who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
**who redeems your life from the
pit, who crowns you with
steadfast love and mercy,**
who satisfies you with good as long
as you live
so that your youth is renewed like
the eagle's.

**The Lord is merciful and
gracious,
slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love.**

He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger
forever.

**He does not deal with us
according to our sins
nor repay us according to our
iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above
the earth,
so great is his steadfast love
toward those who fear him;
**as far as the east is from the
west,
so far he removes our
transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his
children,
so the Lord has compassion for
those who fear him.

**Glory to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen**

Isaiah 40:1-11; 21-31, read by Lavinia Owen

Matthew 7 read by Sarah Hunt

'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye. 'Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. 'Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

'Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits. 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers."

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!' Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Notice Board

The Jesus Way - starting fortnightly from Wednesday 14 September in St Mary's, Easton, I will be teaching a Discipleship Course based on my book *The Jesus Way: Learning to live the Christian life*. The book highlights some themes found in two great chapters of the New Testament (Luke 24 and Acts 2) which provide us with twelve key steps for following Christ today. Each evening will run from 7.30-9.00pm. For some of that time I will be teaching from the front, but there will also be the opportunity to watch a short video (7-9 mins each: filmed in USA and Africa) and to have some Q and A or small group discussion. The evenings will also be available on zoom, but it would be great to have Itchen Valley parishioners attending in person, if you can. The dates for your diary until Christmas are: Wednesdays 14 and 28 September, 12 October, 9 and 23 November. *Revd Peter*

Sunday 25 September - please make a note of this date in your diaries: we will be coming together as the whole parish for a service of Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy. It will be an opportunity to renew our vision for the coming year. The sermon will have the title 'Looking forwards' and will be the third of five sermons in a short series (starting on 11 Sept) designed to help us grow in our journey together with Christ - as we 'look back', 'look in', 'look up' and 'look out'. Please do join us for as many of these Sundays as you can, so we can all be renewed in our vision for the coming year. *Revd Peter*

Alpha - Tim Clapp will be leading a Zoom-based Alpha course, starting on Thursday 22 September for 8 weeks (with a break at half-term). Do consider coming yourself, or be thinking of others you know who might be interested in this relaxed opportunity to explore the Christian faith.

All Age Farm Service - will take place on Saturday 10 September at 3.30pm and will be held at Grace's Farm, Martyr Worthy SO21 1DX. Please join us for this informal service. It may be wet so please wear boots or stout shoes and bring a waterproof coat.

Revd Peter - Peter is away from the parish and will be returning on Friday 9 September.

For Your Prayers

for the situation in Ukraine

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment including Gerry who is recovering from Covid

for those recently bereaved

for the marriage of Nina and Charles

for children as they return to school or are starting for the first time