



Church Matters...

Sunday 29 January - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

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

Sunday 29 January

8.30am - Holy Communion (1662) - St Mary's, Avington
with Revd Peter

10am - Morning Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with Revd Peter
organist John Dover

Monday 30 January

9.30am - Little Rainbows - St John's, Itchen Abbas
7pm - Bereavement Journey - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Wednesday 1 February

St John's Warm Church - See page 4

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

Thursday 2 February

St John's Warm Church

Sunday 5 February

10am - Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton
4pm - Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall
see page 4 for more information

**Revd Peter and Georgie are on annual leave from
Monday 30 January to Monday 6 February inc.**

Collect

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine
out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the
glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of
ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your
people,
and reveal the knowledge of
your glory
in the face 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 107:1-2, 23-32

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is
good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**

Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty
waters.

**They saw the works of the Lord,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.**

For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.

**They mounted up to the heavens and
went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted
away.**

They reeled and staggered like drunkards;
they were at their wits' end.

**Then they cried out to the Lord in their
trouble,
and he brought them out of their
distress.**

He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea[a] were hushed.

**They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired
haven.**

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his
unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

**Let them exalt him in the assembly of
the people
and praise him in the council of the
elders.**

**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**

Acts 10:34-38

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Matthew 8:5-13, 23-27

⁵ When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him ⁶ and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, in terrible distress.' ⁷ And he said to him, 'I will come and cure him.' ⁸ The centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' ¹⁰ When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.' And the servant was healed in that hour.

²³ And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' ²⁶ And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. ²⁷ They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

Notice Board

Warm Welcome - on Wednesdays and Thursdays (between 9am and 2pm) there will be a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come to St John's Church to enjoy the warmth of an already-heated space. This will be the chance to meet with others for a chat, bring along your book or just take the time to relax and take advantage of a warm environment during the winter weather. There will be hot drinks and biscuits available at no charge.

Bereavement Journey - This is a six-week course, aiming to help the bereaved explore their feelings in a supportive environment (but is not led by trained bereavement counsellors). The six sessions will run from 7pm to 9pm, starting on Monday (January 30) and on the following five Mondays. The format of each session will be a short film, followed by discussion and coffee, and finishing with another short film. Please contact Elaine Labram on emlabram@gmail.com or Beccy if you would like more details.

Pancake Party - please come along to Itchen Abbas Village Hall between 4 and 6pm on Tuesday 21 February to enjoy some wonderful pancakes with lots of your favourite toppings. There will be fun games and activities and hot dogs for the children. Everyone is welcome, please let Beccy know if you intend to join us for the fun.

Café Church - our next Café Church is on Sunday 5 February from 4-5pm at Itchen Abbas Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, come and meet new friends and old. There will be activities for all ages or just an opportunity to relax with tea and cake! (If you are able to make a cake, please let Beccy know).

Celebrating Lent - During Lent I will be hosting a series of Bible Studies and presentations in St John's, Itchen Abbas each Wednesday from 11.30am-12.30pm. We will be looking at different themes designed to help us all in our lives of prayer and Christian discipleship.

In the Steps of Jesus: enjoying Lake Galilee - On the first Tuesday in Lent (28 February), I will be giving a presentation in Itchen Abbas Village Hall, including the showing of two 20-minute videos from my In the Steps of Jesus Film Series. These videos focus especially on Jesus' ministry around Lake Galilee and can give us a good introduction to the life and times of Jesus. The event is being published outside the parish as well, so please do come for 7.30pm for some coffee and refreshments, so we can give a good welcome to others who may be joining us.

In the Steps of Jesus - A Tour to the Holy Land for the parishes of the Itchen Valley (April 2024). The Revd Christopher Durrant and I are pleased to be offering this joint venture between our two neighbouring parishes here in the Valley. An outline itinerary can be found on [our website](#): There will be a 'presentation evening' in March and also more information given after the talk at the Village Hall - see above. **Revd Peter**

For Your Prayers

for the situation in Ukraine

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment

for those recently bereaved including the family and friends of

John Platt and the family and friends of Jonathan Booth.

for the Bereavement Journey course as it begins