



Church Matters...

Sunday 12 February - Fourth Sunday before Lent

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 12 February

8.30am - Holy Communion (said) - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with Revd Peter

9.10am - 9.30am coffee and teaching

10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
led by James Greig and talk by Sarah Noble

6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
led by Simon Ffennell and Revd Peter preaching
organist John Purver

6pm - UTX - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 19 February

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

5pm - Evening Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

see page 4 for more information

Half Term

The parish office will be closed for the week from Monday 13 February, Beccy will still be working but not the usual hours.

Please do still email if you need to.

Collect

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and
great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of
our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and
protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all
temptations;
through 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 119:1-8

Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

**Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,**

who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.

**You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

**Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your
commandments.**

I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

**I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

**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**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:17-26

¹⁷ ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹ ‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Notice Board

Lent Lunches - these community lent lunches will be making a welcome return to the Itchen Valley this year. The lunches are held on Fridays from 12-2pm in various homes and take the form of an informal gathering, offering soup, bread and cheese. The first lunch will be on Friday 24th February at the Manor Farm House, Easton - kindly hosted by Lucy Wolfe. Further details will follow but **everyone is welcome to these community-wide event**. If you are able to make soup for any of the lunches or would like further information please contact Judith Mezger - jude@judes.co.uk or 07854 831450.

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, but please let Beccy know if you intend to join us for the fun.

Winchester Community Pantry - we are supporting this local initiative which gives a helping hand to those who need it. People are able to visit the Pantry in Winnall and receive £15 worth of produce for £5. As a Church we will be asking for donations of a different product each month (that they are most in need of) and would ask for donations to be brought to any of our Churches. The main collection box will be in Itchen Abbas and this will be collected monthly. **Pantry Donation of the Month - Breakfast Cereals**

Easton Flower Festival - Please contact Jean Wheeler, thestudio.gw@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing a commemorative photo album of last June's wonderful Flower Festival.

Ukraine Service – Next Sunday (19 February) Gerry Stacey (LLM) will be leading a special service to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine, with a focus on praying for peace and those who are refugees. Please join us at 5.00pm and stay for refreshments afterwards.

Celebrating Lent - During Lent I will be hosting a series of Bible studies in St John's, Itchen Abbas each Wednesday from 11.30am-12.30pm. We will be looking at a Psalm each week and then focusing on various themes in Matthew's Gospel—from Jesus' temptation in the desert through to his death on the Cross.

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 focused on Jesus' ministry around Lake Galilee from my 'In the Steps of Jesus' Film Series. Coffee and refreshments will be served from 7.30pm, so it would be helpful if you could let Beccy know if you are planning to come. And do please think of friends or neighbours who might be interested in this event.

Revd Peter

For Your Prayers

for the situation in Ukraine

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment including Revd Andrew Micklefield as he recovers at home from his recent heart surgery

for those recently bereaved

for the Bereavement Journey

for UTX - the leaders and young people attending