



Church Matters...

Sunday 19 February - Last 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 19 February

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Peter
organist David Duffin

5pm - Evening Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with LLM Gerry Stacey
organist John Purver

see page 4 for more information

Monday 20 February

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

Tuesday 21 February

12pm - CAMEO - St John's, Itchen Abbas
4-6pm - Pancake Party - Itchen Abbas Village Hall
7pm - Standing Committee - The Rectory

Wednesday & Thursday Warm Church

9.30-2pm - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Wednesday 22 February - Ash Wednesday

11.30am - Holy Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 26 February

8.30am - Holy Communion (1662) - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am - Valley Worship and Confirmation with Bishop David - Easton

Collect

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions
of sinful humanity:
give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes
of this world,
our hearts may surely there be
fixed
where true joys are to be found;
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 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your
statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may
keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your
commandments,
for I delight in it.

**Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.**

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.

**Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.**

**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**

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

'He catches the wise in their craftiness',

²⁰ and again,

'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile.'

²¹ So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours,

²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, ²³ and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸ 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?

⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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 events**. 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 this 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**

Ukraine Service – This 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.

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion - We will be using our normal 'Parish Communion' liturgy, but with a special opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes, if you would like this. Our biblical focus will be on St. Matthew's account of Jesus' Temptations in the Desert. Please join us for this special service at 11.30am in St John's, Itchen Abbas.

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 situations in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria
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 Cameo - the leaders and people attending