



Church Matters...

Sunday 5 February - Fifth 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 5 February

10am - Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton
with Revd Mary Copping
organist John Dover

4pm - Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall
see page 4 for more information

Monday 6 February

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

Wednesday 7 February

St John's Warm Church - See page 4

Thursday 8 February

St John's Warm Church

Sunday 12 February

8.30am - Holy Communion (said) - St John's, Itchen Abbas
10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
6pm - UTX - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Collect

Almighty God,
by whose grace alone we are
accepted and called to your
service:
strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our
calling;
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 112:1-7

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his
commandments.

**Their descendants will be mighty in
the land;
the generation of the upright will
be blessed.**

Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures
for ever.

**They rise in the darkness as a light for
the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and
righteous.**

It is well with those who deal generously
and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

**For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered for ever.**

They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

**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 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

Matthew 5:13-20

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. 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. 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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.

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 this 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).

Easton Thanks - thank you to the organisers and attendees of the two wonderful events that took place in St Mary's, Easton during January. The Suez talk and the bell ringing coffee morning between them raised almost £2,000 as well as bringing people together to enjoy these occasions.

Christmas Giving - we are delighted that through the generosity of those donating to our Christmas appeal and giving to collections in Church over Christmas we have been able to share almost £3,000 amongst Trinity Winchester, Winchester Basics Bank and Winchester Beacon - they are very grateful.

Services Programme - hopefully you will now have seen a copy of the latest services programme which are being distributed. Please do pass a copy on to friends or neighbours that you think might like to know more about our services. (there are also spare copies in all of the Churches).

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. *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 from a heart attack
for those recently bereaved including the family and friends of
John Platt and the family and friends of Jonathan Booth.
for the Bereavement Journey