



# Church Matters...

**Sunday 12 March - Third Sunday in 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

### Friday 10 March

12-2pm - Lent Lunch - Freefolk House, Martyr Worthy, SO21 1DX

### Sunday 12 March

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

*coffee and teaching*

### 10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sarah Noble leading, talk by James Wright & worship led by Tim Clapp

### 6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

with Simon Ffennell leading and Revd Peter preaching  
*organist John Purver*

*Martyr Worthy ADCM will follow the service - all welcome*

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

### Monday 13 March

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

### Tuesday 14 March

8pm - Ministry Team Meeting - The Rectory

### Warm Wednesday and Thursday

*9.30am - 2pm - St John's Church, everyone welcome*

### Wednesday 15 March

11.30am - Lent Course - St John's, Itchen Abbas

### Friday 17 March

12-2pm - Lent Lunch - Itchen Abbas Grange, Itchen Abbas, SO21 1BJ

### Sunday 19 March - Mothering Sunday

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

10am - Family Service - St Mary's, Easton

## Collect

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not  
up to joy but first he suffered  
pain,  
and entered not into glory before  
he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking  
in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the  
way of life and peace;  
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 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of  
our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence with  
thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with  
songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his  
also.**

The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have  
formed.

**O come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our  
Maker!**

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to  
his voice!

**Do not harden your hearts, as at  
Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the  
wilderness,**

when your ancestors tested me,  
and put me to the proof,  
though they had seen my work.

**For forty years I loathed that  
generation and said, ‘  
They are a people whose hearts  
go astray,  
and they do not regard my ways.’**

Therefore in my anger I swore,  
‘They shall not enter my rest.’

**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 55:1-3, 6-12

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

## Matthew 9:2-13

<sup>2</sup> And just then some people were carrying a paralysed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.' <sup>3</sup> Then some of the scribes said to themselves, 'This man is blaspheming.' <sup>4</sup> But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts?' <sup>5</sup> For which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and walk"? <sup>6</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he then said to the paralytic—'Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.' <sup>7</sup> And he stood up and went to his home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

# Notice Board

**Electoral Roll** - If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll contact Beccy by **this Wednesday 15 March** (the closing date) and she will send you an application form.

**APCM** - our meeting this year will be held at 7pm on Thursday 30 March at St John's Church, Itchen Abbas. The meeting will be preceded by light refreshments and a chance to socialise - we do hope you can attend.

## **ADCM Meeting Dates:**

**Martyr Worthy** - 7pm (after Evensong) Sunday 12 March - St Swithun's Church  
*At this meeting, the DCC will also be presenting Tracey Sheppard's design for the proposed engraving of the west window of Martyr Worthy Church and discussing the future of St Swithun's Church.*

**Itchen Abbas** - 7.30pm Monday 20 March - St John's Church, Itchen Abbas

**Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings, please do come along.**

**Lent Lunches** - The next lunch will be on Friday 17 March at Itchen Abbas Grange, Itchen Abbas, SO21 1BJ - kindly hosted by Georgina Wyatt. **Everyone is welcome.**

**Winchester Community Pantry** - **Donation this Month - TINNED VEGETABLES**

**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, learning about the Lord's Prayer, and enjoying other themes in Matthew's Gospel.

**Wednesday evenings in Lent: preparing for Holy Week** - For those who are unable to join us on Wednesday mornings, I am hosting two further Zoom seminars at 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings, looking at three of my In the Steps of Jesus videos which can help us imagine better the events of Holy Week: the next two dates are Wednesdays 22 March) and 5 April.

**This Sunday's Holy Communion service (08.30am)** - As usual this will be a reflective service—with quiet music playing beforehand to enable personal prayer and, afterwards, a time for fellowship over coffee and croissants. As we are now in Lent, there will be special focus in the service and in the teaching afterwards on the Ten Commandments as 'Guidelines for walking in the way of the Lord'.

**Summer events outside the parish** - some of our young families have begun talking about whether there are any events we could go to outside the parish for some spiritual refreshment. Possibilities include 'the Big Church Day Out' (in Sussex over the late May bank holiday weekend) or 'New Wine' (in Kent in late July/early August). This the time to be sharing ideas: it would be great to be able to go to something like this as part of the Parish family.

**Revd Peter**

## For Your Prayers

for the situations in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria  
for those who are ill or suffering at the moment  
for those recently bereaved

For the PCC and DCCs as they prepare for APCM  
For the Ministry Team as they meet this week