



Church Matters...

Sunday 5 March - Second 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 3 March

12-2pm - Lent Lunch - The Old Rectory, Avington

Sunday 5 March

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

Easton ADCM will follow the service - all welcome

4pm - Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Monday 6 March

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

Warm Wednesday and Thursday

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

Wednesday 8 March

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

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

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

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

Martyr Worthy ADCM will follow the service - all welcome

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

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in
error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way
of righteousness:
grant to all those who are
admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's
religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their
profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not
slumber.

**He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your
right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by
day nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going
out and your coming in
from this time on and
forevermore.**

**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**

Romans 6:1-5

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Notice Board

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.

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

ADCM Meeting Dates:

Easton - 11am (after Parish Communion) Sunday 5 March - St Mary's, Easton

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 10 March at Freefolk House, Martyr Worthy, SO21 1DX - kindly hosted by Henrietta Mason. **Everyone is welcome.**

Winchester Community Pantry - Donation this Month - TINNED VEGETABLES

Café Church - our next Café Church this Sunday (5 March) 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 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 three Zoom seminars on fortnightly 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 Mt of Olives' (8 March), 'the City of Jerusalem' (22 March) and 'The Long Night: Last Supper & Gethsemane' (5 April). I am advertising these also through Walkway Book to those outside the parish, but it would lovely if some from the Itchen Valley are able to join us.

Holy Communion service (Sunday 12 March, 08.30am) - I'd like to draw your attention to this special service during Lent. 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. Because we are in Lent, however, 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'.

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 final meeting of the Bereavement Journey

for Charles and Tara as they bring Louis to be baptised