



Church Matters...

Sunday 17 December 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome

We are so pleased to welcome you to our service. 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 17 December

8.30am - Holy Communion (1662) - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Peter

10am - Family Carols and Costumes - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with Revd Peter
organist John Dover

6pm - Traditional Carol Service - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Peter
organist John Purver

Tuesday 19 December

5pm - Carols outside St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

6.30pm - Carols outside The Plough

Thursday 21 December

4.30pm - Carols by the Crib at St Mary's Church, Easton

Christmas Eve

8.30am - Holy Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

4pm - Crib Service - St Mary's Church, Easton

11pm - Midnight Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Notice Board

Family Carols - at our family carol service this Sunday at 10am at St John's, Itchen Abbas we will not only be hearing the wondrous story of the birth of Jesus but also there will be an opportunity to take part - young and not so young! We will be enjoying some well known, family favourite carols - we hope you can join us.

Traditional Carol Service - for those of you who enjoy the more traditional carols and readings, please join us at 6pm this Sunday at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy where a choir will be leading us.

Carol singing - please do join us next week at one of our carol singing events. On Tuesday (19th) we will be singing outside St Swithun's Church at 5pm and outside the Plough between 6.30pm and 7.15pm. Please do join us and bring along family and friends - everyone is welcome.

Carols by the Crib (4.30pm in St Mary's Easton on Thursday 21st) - This is an opportunity for younger children in the parish to spend 10-15 minutes around the Crib, hearing Revd Peter explain more about the Bethlehem story and the figures in the Crib. Hopefully this will help them look forward all the more to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. We'll sing a couple of carols and, by 5.00pm, we should already be enjoying some hot food together (kindly provided by Red Radish).

Giving this Christmas - we are supporting the following charities this Christmas - Winchester Basics Bank, Trinity and the Nightshelter. The collections taken at our Christmas services will be donated to these charities (not to the Parish) and you can also donate to them from the donate button on our our website.

Church finances: this week many of you will have received a letter with news about our likely budget deficit at the end of December. I have tried to see our investing in our parish's ministry as an appropriate theme for Advent, as we seek to share Christ's light and hope into our world; and would love it if—whether through the Parish Giving Scheme or one-off donations—we can together put our parish on a firmer footing as we go into 2024. "This Advent let's spread a little hope—every little helps!"

Christmas Greetings from Peter & Georgie – As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus, we wish you peace and joy. We thank you for all your kindnesses to us through 2023, and pray blessings on you and your families, with our love.

For Your Prayers

for the situations in Ukraine and the Holy Land

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment

for Kelly and Mike Gibson as they give thanks for the safe arrival of their daughter Aoife Mae