



Church Matters...

Sunday 21 January 2024
Third Sunday of Epiphany

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 21 January

10am – Parish Communion – St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
led by Revd Peter with LLM Gerry Stacey speaking
organist John Dover

6pm – Christian Unity Service – St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
led by Lesley Ann Ritchie

Monday 22 January

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

Tuesday 23 January

7pm – PCC Meeting - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 28 January

8.30am – Holy Communion – St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am – Valley Worship – St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs
and miracles
the wonder of your saving
presence:
renew your people with your
heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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 111

Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my
whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the
congregation.

**Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honour and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures for ever.

**He has gained renown by his wonderful
deeds;**

the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**He has shown his people the power of
his works,
in giving them the heritage of the
nations.**

The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

**They are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and
uprightness.**

He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant for ever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of
wisdom;**

**all those who practise it have a good
understanding.**

His praise endures for ever.

**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**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶ This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' ¹⁷ Then the Lord replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.'

Mark 1.21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Notice Board

A Date for your Diary – Please join us at 7.45pm on Tuesday 30 January at the Rectory to pray. Looking forward to seeing you then! **Georgie**

This Sunday – We look forward to Lesley Ann Ritchie leading us in our Ecumenical Evening Service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; this will take place at 6.00pm in St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy.

Christmas Thanks - £2,283 was collected during our Christmas services and will be donated to our 3 chosen charities - Winchester Basics Bank, Trinity and Winchester Beacon. Thank you to everyone who donated.

“Love your neighbour” - We all know the way Jesus highlighted this as the second most important commandment that had been given in Old Testament times: we are to “love God with all our heart and mind”, but also to “love our neighbour as ourselves” (Matt. 22:37-39).

One way, it seems to me, that we might apply this to ourselves as a church family—especially during these dark and sometimes depressing days of January and February—is to be intentional about inviting some of our immediate neighbours into our homes for a drink or a meal over the coming weeks. Many of us have been laid low by winter illnesses since Christmas, so it might be that we all need some cheering up!

So can I suggest that we think in terms of a ‘Love Your Neighbour’ fortnight (from e.g. Saturday 27 January to Sunday 11 February) in which we think of some way to offer some mid-winter hospitality—whether to each other within the church or, perhaps especially, to those who live near to us but whom we haven't seen as much as we might like. Jesus said that people will “know you are my disciples by your love” (John 13:35), so let's be people who this winter spread a little of Christ's love around the Valley—every little helps!

For Your Prayers

for the situations in Ukraine and the Holy Land
for those who are ill or suffering at the moment

For the PCC as they meet this week