



Church Matters...

Sunday 18 February 2024
First Sunday of Lent

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 18 February

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Peter
organist John Dover

6pm - Taizé Service - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with LLM Gerry Stacey
organist John Purver

Monday 19 February

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

Tuesday 20 February

12pm – Cameo - St John's, Itchen Abbas
7pm - Standing Committee and PCC - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Wednesday 21 February - Ash Wednesday

12.30pm - Lent Bible Study - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Friday 23 February

12pm - Lent Lunch - Judith Mezger - Farmyard, Easton SO21 1EQ

Sunday 25 February

8.30am - Holy Communion (1662) - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am - Valley Worship and Ark - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
followed by Martyr Worthy ADCM

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted
forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are,
yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline
ourselves in obedience to
your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power
to save;
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 22:19-26, 29-31

But you, O Lord, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!
**Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!**
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have
rescued me.
**I will tell of your name to my brothers
and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will
praise you:**
You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring
of Israel!
**For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.**
From you comes my praise in the great
congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who
fear him.
**The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise
the Lord.
May your hearts live for ever!**
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the
earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to
the dust, and I shall live for him.
**Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about
the Lord,**
and proclaim his deliverance to a people
yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.
**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 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³ Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Notice Board

The Martyr Worthy Lecture Series 2023/24 - The Martyr Worthy Lecture Series 2023/24 – We have now come to the end of this marvellous series of lectures—spread over four events since late November. What a great series it has been!—with great speakers addressing a wide range of subjects, touching on politics, history and the arts. And what a great vote of thanks we owe to the organising committee (Gilly Greenwood, Verity Coleman, Sophie Parry, Sally Johnston and Camillia Mortimer) and their many helpers for all they have done. Knowing that the funds raised go to support the work of our whole parish, all of us in the church family owe them a great debt of thanks and gratitude!

Pancake Party - We had a wonderful pancake party superbly masterminded by a team led by Theo and Judith Mezger, Gerry Stacey and Jenny Crowther. At its peak we had 80 people in the room of which 45 were children and the kitchen team made over 240 pancakes. Thank you so much to the organisers and all of the people who came along to enjoy the fun.

Lent Wednesdays – our Bible study continues (a weekly series looking at the Psalms) over a cup of soup from 12.30-1.30pm - please do join us.

Lent Lunches - These lent lunches for the Valley community are taking place again this year. The lunches are held on Fridays from 12-2pm in various homes and take the form of an informal gathering, offering soup, bread and cheese. The second lunch will be on Friday 23 February, kindly hosted by Judith and Theo Mezger at Farmyard, Easton SO21 1EQ. Everyone is welcome to this community-wide event. If you are able to make soup for any of the lunches or would like further information, please contact Judith Mezger - judemezger@gmail.com or 07854 831450.

Praying in Lent – I know of several churches who are encouraging their congregations during Lent to use the daily prayers provided by Pete Greig and others on the 'Lectio 365' app. I can testify that this really is a great resource, and well worth using if you can: go to 24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365

Viewing Jerusalem through Jesus' eyes – I will be leading three 'Walkway Books' Zoom seminars, designed to help us think through the complex issues to do with Jerusalem that lie at the heart of the current conflict in the Holy Land. These will be on Sundays 3, 10 and 17 March in the late afternoon: more details to follow. **Revd Peter**

APCM - This will take place on Thursday 21 March: more details to follow.

Electoral Roll - There is an annual period where the Electoral Roll can be updated and this year it is between 22 February and 6 March. If you would like to be added to it, or to confirm you are on it, please email Beccy - admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

ADCM - Each church will be holding their own **Annual District Church Meeting** prior to the APCM, details will follow on our website and on church noticeboards as well as here. The first one to take place will be Martyr Worthy's which will be held next Sunday after the 10am service - everyone is welcome to attend.

**Revd Peter will be on annual leave
from Wednesday 21 February to Saturday 3 March (inc.)**