



# Church Matters...

**Sunday 3 March 2024**  
**Third 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

### Friday 1 March

12pm - Lent Lunch - Liz Platt at Meadows, Martyr Worthy SO21 1DZ

### Sunday 3 March

10am - Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton  
led by Revd Peter and Revd Justyn Terry Preaching *organist John Dover*

4pm - Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall [details on page 4](#)

### Monday 4 March

9.30pm – Little Rainbows - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
5pm - Itchen Abbas ADCM - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
7.45pm - Rectory Prayers - The Rectory

### Wednesday 6 March

12.30pm - Lent Bible Study - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
7pm - Easton ADCM - St Mary's, Easton  
8pm - Wednesday Night Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

### Friday 8 March

12pm - Lent Lunch - Lucy de Laszlo at Chilland House, MW SO21 1EB

### Sunday 10 March - Mothering Sunday

8.30am - Holy Communion (said) - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
6.30pm - Viewing Jerusalem Webinar - [details on page 4](#)  
5.30pm - UTX - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

## 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 107:1-3,17-22

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble**  
and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.  
**Some were sick through their  
sinful ways,  
and because of their iniquities  
endured affliction;**

they loathed any kind of food,  
and they drew near to the gates  
of death.

**Then they cried to the Lord in  
their trouble,  
and he saved them from their  
distress;**

he sent out his word and healed them,  
and delivered them from destruction.

**Let them thank the Lord for his  
steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to  
humankind.**

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,  
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

**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**

## Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

## John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> '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.

<sup>17</sup> '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. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

# Notice Board

**Lent Wednesdays** – our Bible study continues this week on the 6 March, a weekly series looking at the Psalms over a cup of soup from 12.30-1.30pm.

**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 third lunch will be on Friday 1 March, kindly hosted by Liz Platt at Meadows, Martyr Worthy SO21 1DZ. 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.

**Café Church** - our next Café Church will be this Sunday (3 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!

**Martyr Worthy Lecture Series 2023/24** - The 2023/24 Martyr Worthy Lecture Series kicked off in November and concluded in mid February. During this time we have been entertained and enlightened by four excellent speakers, talking on a variety of different topics, as well as enjoying delicious canapes, a glass or two of wine and each others company. The lectures have been well attended and on behalf of the organisers I would like to thank everyone who so kindly supported the Series. As a result of this wonderful support, and the hard work of the army of helpers involved, I am delighted to announce that we have raised the sum of £10,010 for the Parish of the Itchen Valley. We have had the greatest fun organising the Series, and it has been a huge team effort, so with our spirits soaring high at this fantastic result, we very much hope to put together another Martyr Worthy Lecture Series for 2025/26.

**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. The first webinar will focus on the history of Jerusalem since the time of King David, and will start at 6.30pm on Sunday 3 March. Further details can be found here <https://itchenvalleychurches.org/2024/02/28/jesus-and-jerusalem-history-faith-and-conflict-webinars/>. **Revd Peter**

**Rectory Prayers** – Please join us at 7.45pm this Monday 4 March at the Rectory to pray. Looking forward to seeing you then! **Georgie**

**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 Dates:**

Itchen Abbas's meeting will be held at 5pm on Monday 4 March at St John's.

Easton's meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 6 March at St Mary's.

Avington - Friday 15 March further details to follow. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**