



Church Matters...

Sunday 17 March 2024
Fifth 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 15 March

12pm - Lent Lunch - Lucy Collis at Demelza, Easton SO21 1EF

Sunday 17 March

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
led by Revd Peter and LLM Gerry Stacey preaching
Organist John Dover

12pm - Baptism of Poppy Church - St John's, Itchen Abbas

5.30pm - Viewing Jerusalem Webinar - [details on page 4](#)

5.30pm - UTX - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Monday 18 March

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

Wednesday 20 March

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

Thursday 21 March

7pm - APCM - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 24 March - Palm Sunday

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

10am - Family Service - St Mary's, Easton

Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and
resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who
suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power
of his victory;
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 51:1-13

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from
my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have
I sinned,
and done what is evil in
your sight,
so that you are justified in your
sentence and blameless when
you pass judgement.**

Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my
secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be
clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than
snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed
rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit
within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your
salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

**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**

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you’;
⁶ as he says also in another place,

‘You are a priest for ever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.’

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

²⁷ ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ ³⁰ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Notice Board

Lent Wednesdays – The Bible study group will be meeting again this coming week on Wednesday 20 March. Please join us as we continue to look at a Psalm or Gospel passage over a cup of soup from 12.30-1.30pm.

Lent Lunches - The final lunch will be on Friday 15 March, kindly hosted by Lucy Collis at Demelza, Easton SO21 1EF. Everyone is welcome to this community-wide event. from 12-2pm which takes the form of an informal gathering, offering soup, bread and cheese.

Viewing Jerusalem through Jesus' eyes – I have been 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 conclude on Sunday 17 March in the late afternoon. The webinar will focus on a 'Jesus-way forwards for Jerusalem'; and will start at 5.30pm. Further details can be found here <https://itchenvalleychurches.org/2024/02/28/jesus-and-jerusalem-history-faith-and-conflict-webinars/>. *Revd Peter*

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) - This year's meeting will be held next Thursday (21 March) at 7.30pm in St John's Church, Itchen Abbas. Drinks and nibbles will precede the meeting from 7pm. This is always a good time to catch up with friends and a rare opportunity to experience what it means to be in a single benefice and part of a large parish-wide family. Please put this date in your diaries as everyone is welcome to attend. All documents for the APCM can be found on our website.

ADCM - Avington's meeting will be held at 9am on Friday 15 March at 5 Chandos Terrace. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

For Your Prayers

for the situations in Ukraine and the Holy Land

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment

for our APCM this week

for Poppy Eleanor Church as she is brought to baptism