



Church Matters...

Sunday 14 April 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

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 14 April

8.30am - Holy Communion (said) - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with Revd Peter
coffee and teaching

10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with Revd Peter
organist John Dover

6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Simon Ffennell leading and LLM Gerry Stacey preaching
organist John Purver

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

Monday 15 April

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

Tuesday 16 April

12pm - Cameo - St John's, Itchen Abbas
7.30pm - Standing Committee - The Rectory

Sunday 21 April

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
5pm - Easter Praise - St Mary's, Easton

Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy
gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his
presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and
sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in
righteousness and truth;
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 4

Answer me when I call, O God of
my right!
You gave me room when I was
in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear
my prayer.
**How long, you people, shall
my honour suffer shame?
How long will you love vain
words, and seek after lies?**

But know that the Lord has set
apart the faithful for himself;
the Lord hears when I call
to him.

**When you are disturbed,
do not sin;
ponder it on your beds,
and be silent.**

Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.

**There are many who say,
'O that we might see
some good!
Let the light of your face shine
on us, O Lord!'**

You have put gladness in
my heart
more than when their grain
and wine abound.

**I will both lie down and sleep
in peace;
for you alone, O Lord, make
me lie down in safety.**

**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**

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ ‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Luke 24.36-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Notice Board

'With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all' (Acts 4:33).

This is a great picture of what any Christian church can look like: a community which is different from any other community by being focused on the reality of the Risen Jesus in our midst; and where, as result, we experience more of God's goodness and grace.

As the Easter season continues through April and May, I'm so glad we will be having—in addition to our regular Sunday services—some extra opportunities to show how we are an 'Easter people'.

'Easter Praise' - We are hosting something special next week on Sunday 21 April when Tim Clapp will be leading us with his fellow-musicians in an All-Age Praise and Worship event in St Mary's, Easton. This will start at 5.00pm but please come along from 4.45pm to enjoy some of Jill Croft's lovely sandwiches and cupcakes; there's also talk of some 'hot dogs'! St Mary's is a wonderful building and we want to fill this ancient space with the sound of God's praise, all focused on the Risen Jesus.

Telling our Story – In the April edition of the Itchen Valley News I highlighted a new theme for the coming months, namely 'Love your story' which can encourage us all to love our local history and our own individual family stories. On Sunday 12 May, however, we'll have an opportunity to tell our uniquely Christian story, focused on those '50 days that changed the world'—the time between Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his departure from the same Mount of Olives at the time of his Ascension.

Bishop David Williams will be with us throughout the day. In the morning (note the later start time of 11.00am) he will join us in Itchen Abbas Village Hall as we retell the story of Palm Sunday and focus on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. In the afternoon he will preach at a special service (augmented by Tim Tyler's choir) at 3.00pm in St Mary's, Easton—focused on both the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. This gives us another opportunity to proclaim the good news of Easter and will hopefully be a really uplifting occasion. And it will be followed by a garden party, accompanied by the 'Gospel Jazz' musicians (on a 'return visit' from Oxford).

I do hope you can come to one or both of these services on Sunday 12 May, and perhaps join us for a picnic in the IAVH or enjoy walking through the Valley from one to the other.

Revd Peter