



# Church Matters...

**Sunday 7 April 2024**  
**Second 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 7 April

10am - Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton  
led by Revd Peter and LLM Gerry Stacey preaching

4pm - Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall  
*details on page 4*

### 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*

## Collect

Almighty Father,  
you have given your only Son  
to die for our sins  
and to rise again for our  
justification:  
grant us so to put away the leaven  
of malice and wickedness  
that we may always serve you  
in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of your Son  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant  
it is when kindred live together  
in unity!

**It is like the precious oil on  
the head,  
running down upon the  
beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the  
collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains  
of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained  
his blessing,  
life for evermore.

**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 4:32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

## **John 20:19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

# Notice Board

**Café Church** - our next Café Church will be this Sunday (7 April) 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! (If you are able to make a cake, please let Beccy know).

**UTX** - The Itchen Valley Parish's Youth Group is open to those in school years 6-9 and meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month from 5.30-7pm. It is a great opportunity to come and meet with old and new friends and take part in some fun activities. **Everyone is welcome**, for more information please email Beccy on [admin@itchenvalleychurches.org](mailto:admin@itchenvalleychurches.org)

**Easter Thanks** - Easter is such a special time of year. For me it meant so much to be able to come back amongst you—after my time away caring for my sister—and to be part of the church family as together we celebrated the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Day.

As I said in my sermon, God's raising Jesus from the grave is for me 'the most well-attested event in ancient history' and thus allows us to find a solid bedrock on which we stand: we can face both life and death with a strong hope in God's goodness and his gift of eternal life through Christ.

So let's continue to be people of hope and quiet confidence. "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Or, as an old song once put it, "We are an Easter people and 'Hallelujah' is our song!"

And, finally, let me express my thanks to all those who 'stepped up' in so many ways to ensure our Holy Week services were able to go ahead as normal, despite my absence. Thank you!

With love and prayers for everyone in our church family, hoping you all have a wonderful Easter Season. **Revd Peter**

## For Your Prayers

for the situations in Ukraine and the Holy Land

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment

For those recently bereaved