



# Church Matters...

**Sunday 5 May 2024**  
**Sixth 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 5 May

10am - Parish Communion - **St John's, Itchen Abbas** - new location  
with Revd Peter  
*organist John Dover*

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

### Thursday 9 May

8.30am Ascension Day Service - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

### Sunday 12 May

#### **Fifty Days that Changed the World**

**11am** Palm Sunday to the Last Supper - Itchen Abbas Village Hall

**3pm** Easter to Ascension - St Mary's, Easton

*Full details of these exciting events on page 4*

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

## Collect

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the  
power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom  
of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has  
recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us  
he may raise us to eternal joy;  
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 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous  
things.

His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.

**The Lord has made known  
his victory;  
he has revealed his  
vindication in the sight of  
the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast  
love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have  
seen the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the  
Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song  
and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the Lord with  
the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound  
of melody.

**With trumpets and the sound  
of the horn  
make a joyful noise before  
the King, the Lord.**

Let the floods clap their  
hands;

let the hills sing together  
for joy

at the presence of the Lord,  
for he is coming  
to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with  
righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

**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**

## 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

# Notice Board

**Café Church** - our next Café Church will be this Sunday (5 May) 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).

## Sunday 12 May - 50 days that changed the world

At 11.00am we will be in the Itchen Abbas Village Hall, when we will focus on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then his Last Supper with his friends. This will be followed by a picnic and BBQ (please bring your own picnic; we will supply the hot dogs!).

At 3.00pm we will be in St Mary's, Easton, for an up-beat 'Songs of Praise' service focused on the story of Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension. We will also be joined by Fr Mark Hogan (the Roman Catholic priest in St Peter's, Winchester) and a choir led by Tim Tyler. This will be followed by a Garden Party, with a 'Gospel Jazz' group playing in the background.

I do hope you can come to one or both of these, and please use the invitation cards to encourage your friends and neighbours to join us!

**'Thy Kingdom Come'** – In recent years the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost have become a special time for prayer throughout the Anglican Communion. The diocese has given us 40 copies of a Booklet and of a Prayer Journal, both of which can be used to guide us in our personal prayers—and especially as we pray for five other people to come to know Christ in their lives. If you are interested in this great idea, please do collect your own Booklet and Prayer Journal either after church on Sunday or from the Parish Office next week—some time before Thursday! (Fuller details at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/new-2024>)

**In our prayers** during the next two weeks, let's be praying that we ourselves will come to know Christ better and help also to make him better known within our community; and let's be praying to know more of the presence and power of his Holy Spirit!

*Revd Peter*