



Church Matters...

Sunday 15 September 2024
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

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 15 September

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Peter
organist John Dover

Monday 16 September

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

Tuesday 17 September

7pm - PCC Meeting - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Saturday 21 September

3.30pm - Parish Harvest Tea - St John's, Itchen Abbas
details page 4

Sunday 22 September

8.30am - Holy Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am - Harvest Praise - St Mary's, Easton
6pm - Harvest Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you
mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both
perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and
power faithfully to fulfil them;
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 103:1-5, 8-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his
benefits—**

who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
**who redeems your life from
the Pit,**
**who crowns you with steadfast
love and mercy,**
who satisfies you with good as long
as you live
so that your youth is renewed like
the eagle's.

**The Lord is merciful and
gracious,
slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love.**

He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

**He does not deal with us
according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our
iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above
the earth,

so great is his steadfast love
towards those who fear him;

**as far as the east is from
the west,
so far he removes our
transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for
his children,
so the Lord has compassion for
those who fear him.

**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**

2 Cor. 8:9; 9:6-15

⁹ For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

⁹ As it is written,

‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Matt. 7:7-11

⁷ ‘Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Notice Board

Parish Harvest Tea - in St John's, Itchen Abbas next Saturday (21 September) from 3.30-5.30pm. Its' a rare opportunity for us all to come together as one church family—after all, we may have four beautiful church buildings but we are one Church. If you are planning to come: do please email Beccy (admin@itchenvalleychurches.org) ideally by Tuesday 17 September; but, even if you do not reply but on the day would like to attend, you would still be very welcome!

Next Rectory Prayer meeting - Tuesday 24 September (07.45-09.00pm).

Parish finances - Our Bible readings this Sunday open up the theme of Christian generosity and giving in response to the 'God or all grace'. So there will be some focus on the ways we can give to support Christ's ministry here in the Valley. I am therefore grateful to David Anderson (our parish treasurer) for the following background information:

1. The total costs of the parish are c. £150,000 per annum, of which our contribution to the Diocese's 'Common Mission Fund' is c. £75,000.
2. The diocese calculates our CMF share on the number, not of those on the Electoral Roll, but rather of those who are within what is called 'the Worshipping Community' (those who attend church at least once a month). In our parish this is around 120 people.
3. Regular and planned giving is the bedrock of our finances—making it possible to plan future budgets with some degree of confidence and stability. There are 83 households on the Electoral Roll or in the 'Worshipping Community', of which 46 give regularly.
4. Many have found the easiest way to give regularly is through the Parish Giving Scheme (parishgiving.org). Here is the link that takes you directly to '[Parish of the Itchen Valley](#)'.

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

for the PCC as they meet this week