



Church Matters...

Sunday 3 November 2024
The Fourth Sunday before Advent

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 3 November

10am - Parish Communion - St Mary's Church, Easton
incorporating a time of prayer and reflection
led by Revd Peter with LLM Gerry Stacey preaching
organist John Dover

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

Monday 4 November

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

Wednesday 6 November

7.45pm - Wednesday Night Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Saturday 9 November

6.30pm - Fundraising Concert - St Mary's Church, Easton
further details on page 4

Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday

10am - Acts of Remembrance

Avington, Easton and Martyr Worthy War Memorials

10.45am - Act of Remembrance followed by Remembrance Service starting at Itchen Abbas War Memorial and moving to St John's Church

Following the 10.45am Act of Remembrance there will be family activities and coffee in Itchen Abbas Village Hall.

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
you have kindled the flame of love
in the hearts of the saints:
grant to us the same faith and
power of love,
that, as we rejoice in their
triumphs,
we may be sustained by their
example and fellowship;
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 24.1-6

The earth is the Lord's and all that
is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
**for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the
rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of
the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy
place?

**Those who have clean hands
and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to
what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.**

They will receive blessing from
the Lord,
and vindication from the God
of their salvation.

**Such is the company of those
who seek him,
who seek the face of the God
of Jacob.**

**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**

Revelation 21.1-6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.'

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

⁶ Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

John 11.32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.'³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.'⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'

⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Notice Board

It's good to be back, after being in Greece for 3 weeks leading two tours 'in the steps of Saint Paul'. For me, personally, there were many highlights - including standing on two beaches known to Paul as mentioned in the Books of Acts (Cenchrea in 18:18; and Fair Havens in Acts 27:8). I am hoping to put together some audio and video recordings into a 'virtual travel experience', which I can share in the New Year with those who are interested. Meanwhile, I can only say that staying in a Greek Orthodox monastery for 3 days was very beautiful, but also quite bizarre in many ways!

We now have 3 important weekends to look forward to! I hope to see you at any or all of the following:

This weekend (3 Nov) - This year we will be combining our **All Saints Day 'Service of Prayer and Reflection'** with our Parish Communion at 10am. We do hope that this will give you a chance to remember your own family member with thanksgiving and to grieve appropriately. Please do stay on after the service for some tea or coffee, which will give you the opportunity to meet others. And **Café Church** will be later that afternoon (4-5pm) in 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).

Next weekend (9-10 Nov) - Please join us at the **Fundraising Concert** by the Gospel Choir Collective, Alresford to be held in St Mary's Church, Easton on Saturday 9 November. All proceeds will go to the St Mary's Fabric Fund for ongoing repairs to the church. Tickets are £15 and this will include a glass of wine and canapés. Doors will open at 6.30pm for an opportunity to mingle with friends and the concert will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are available by bank transfer to: 'Glynde Easton' (sort code: 30-99-71; acc no 00717724) with surname as a reference. And the next day, of course, is **Remembrance Sunday**: details see page 1.

Sunday (17 Nov) – At 6.00pm we will be hosting in St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy, an **ecumenical service of Choral Evensong**, when our preacher will be the deacon associated with St Peter's Roman Catholic church in Winchester, Tony Darlison.

For Your Prayers

for the urgent situations in Ukraine and the Holy Land

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment

for those recently bereaved