



Church Matters...

Sunday 1 December 2024
Advent Sunday

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 1 December

10am - Advent Parish Communion - St Mary's, Easton
with Revd Peter
organist John Dover

4pm - Advent Café Church - Itchen Valley Village Hall
details on page 4

Monday 2 December

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

Wednesday 4 December

7.30pm - Wednesday Night Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 8 December

8.30am - BCP Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
10am - Morning Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
5pm - UTX - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and
reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult
over me.

**Do not let those who wait for
you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are
wantonly treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways,
O Lord;
teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth, and
teach me,
for you are the God of my
salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

Be mindful of your mercy,
O Lord, and of your steadfast
love, for they have been from
of old.

**Do not remember the sins of
my youth or my
transgressions;
according to your steadfast
love remember me,
for your goodness' sake,
O Lord!**

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners
in the way.

**He leads the humble in what
is right,
and teaches the humble
his way.**

**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 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

³⁴ 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Notice Board

Café Church - our next Café Church will be this Sunday (1 December) 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!

Our Advent Calendar - as we move into the season of Advent, we will be thinking about how we can keep 'Christ' at the very heart of 'Christ'-mas. The Advent calendar we devised last year is 'live' again this year, giving us the opportunity - through the selected readings, reflections and music - to enter more fully into the Christmas story for ourselves. This Sunday is the first of December, so it's time to access the calendar: please go to the homepage of our website where you can then click on each number to take you to the resources of that particular day. There will also be some printed copies, with QR codes to scan, available if you prefer: please email Beccy if you would like one emailed to print out - admin@itchenvalleychurches.org

Christingle Service - please join us for this informal family service - with an opportunity to make your own Christingle - on Sunday 15 December at 4pm St John's Church, Itchen Abbas. Everyone welcome.

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
our plans for the Advent season