

ITCHEN  
VALLEY



CHURCHES

# Church Matters...

**Sunday 15 December 2024**  
**Third Sunday of 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 15 December

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy  
with Revd Peter  
*organist Colin Harvey*

4pm - Christingle - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
*details on page 4*

### Monday 16 December

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

### Tuesday 17 December

2pm - Itchen Abbas School Carol Service - St John's, Itchen Abbas

### Sunday 22 December

10am - Parish Communion - St Mary's, Avington  
6pm - Traditional Carol Service - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy  
*details on page 4*

## Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent  
your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and  
stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and  
make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the  
disobedient to the wisdom  
of the just,  
that at your second coming to  
judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable  
people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with  
the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Canticle - Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be  
afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength  
and my might;  
he has become my salvation.  
**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**  
And you will say on that day:  
Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among  
the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.  
**Sing praises to the Lord,  
for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all  
the earth.**  
Shout aloud and sing for joy,  
O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the  
Holy One of Israel.

**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**

## Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

## Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'<sup>12</sup> Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup> He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'<sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

# Notice Board

**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.

**Giving this Christmas** - we are again supporting the following charities this Christmas - Winchester Basics Bank, Trinity Winchester and the Winchester Beacon. The collections taken at our Christmas services will be donated to these charities (not to the parish) and you can also donate to them from the donate button on our website.

**Traditional Carols** – We look forward to our annual carol service, taking place in St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy on Sunday 22 December at 6.00pm. There will be six readings from the Bible, three special choir selections for us all to enjoy listening to, and no less than eight of your favourite carols to be sung by the congregation. Come and fill the church with God's praises and launch your celebration of Christmas!

**Gospel Collective Alresford** - the wonderful choir who recently performed at St Mary's Fundraising event are holding a Winter Concert, on Thursday 19 December, from 7pm - 9pm at **St John's Church, Alresford**. Tickets which include refreshments are £10 per adult and children under 16 are free, they can be purchased from [www.gospelcollective.co.uk](http://www.gospelcollective.co.uk). This vibrant choir promises an evening of uplifting, moving and joyous songs that will lift your spirit and, hopefully, get you dancing and singing along - look out for some very familiar faces amongst them!

## For Your Prayers

for the situations in Ukraine and the Holy Land  
for those who are ill or suffering at the moment or for those recently bereaved  
for the children, parents and staff of Itchen Abbas Primary School  
as they join us for their carol service