



Church Matters...

Sunday 8 December 2024
Second 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 8 December

8.30am - BCP Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Peter

10am - Morning Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas
with Revd Peter
organist John Dover

5pm - UTX - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Monday 9 December

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

Tuesday 10 December

12pm - Cameo - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Thursday 12 December

2pm - IAPS Nativity - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Sunday 15 December

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

4pm - Christingle - St John's, Itchen Abbas

details on page 4

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray,
your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins
and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set
before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son
our Lord,
to whom with you and the
Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and
for ever.

Canticle - Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord God
of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on
his people and redeemed them.
**He has raised up a mighty
saviour for us in the house
of his servant David;**
as he spoke through the mouth of
his holy prophets from of old,
**that we would be saved from
our enemies and from the
hand of all who hate us.**

Thus he has shown the mercy
promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his
holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our
ancestor Abraham,
to grant us -
**that we, being rescued from
the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without
fear, in holiness and
righteousness before him
all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the
prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to
prepare his ways,
**to give knowledge of salvation
to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.**
By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will
break upon us,
**to give light to those who sit
in darkness and in the
shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way
of peace.**

**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**

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

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.

Advent—a time of preparation, seeking to put 'Christ' at the centre of 'Christ-mas' - Some of you will already have seen my short video message (an 'Advent Message from the Rectory') that was sent out last weekend. If not, it would be great if you could spend a few moments watching it on youtube (<https://youtu.be/q19MJuiOg5g>) or listening to its audio-only version [here](#). In it I encouraged you to access our wonderful Advent Calendar [here](#) and also referred back to my sermon on 'Christ the Sun' [here](#)

In addition, here are some Prayers and Blessings that you could use at home during this Advent season:

"Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. Let us, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. And let us, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us. Amen."

"May the Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace" (Num. 6:24-26).

"May Christ the Sun of righteousness rise with healing in his wings and scatter the darkness before our path" (based on Malachi 4:2).

I do hope that you will find these resources to be encouraging and helpful. We all need things to brighten our days, and I can think of no better person to do that than Jesus him-self, as He shines his light on us. May Advent 2024 be for you a special season in which you experience Christ's light and love in new ways.
with love and prayers

Revd Peter

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 Cameo as they meet for Christmas

for the children, parents and staff of Itchen Abbas Primary School
as they join us for Cameo and their Nativity service