



Church Matters...

Sunday 19 January 2025
The Third Sunday of Epiphany

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 19 January

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

4pm - Welcome Tea - St John's, Itchen Abbas

Monday 20 January

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

Tuesday 21 January

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

Thursday 23 January

12pm - Andrew Kennedy's Funeral - St Mary's, Easton

Sunday 25 January

8.30am Holy Communion - St John's, Itchen Abbas

10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas

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

6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs
and miracles
the wonder of your saving
presence:
renew your people with your
heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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.

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

**Do not fear, for I have
redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
you are mine.**

When you pass through the
waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they
shall not overwhelm you;
**when you walk through fire you
shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not
consume you.**

For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in
exchange for you.

**Because you are precious in
my sight,
and honoured, and I
love you,**

**I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for
your life.**

Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from
the east,
and from the west I will
gather you;

**I will say to the north, ‘Give
them up’,
and to the south, ‘Do not
withhold;**

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the
end of the earth—

**everyone who is called by
my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.’**

**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**

Acts 8:14-24

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, 'Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.'

²⁰ But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.'

²⁴ Simon answered, 'Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me.'

Luke 3:15-17,21,22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.'

²¹ Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Notice Board

Welcome Tea – this will take place this Sunday 19 January at 4.00pm in St John's, Itchen Abbas. I have given out over 20 invitations to individuals or families whom I have met—who either live near to St John's, or have recently moved into the area, or who have been associated with the church in some way in recent years (such as baptism parents etc). All of them are younger than me (!), and I am hoping that during this time they will not only enjoy meeting each other, building up some neighbourly connections, but also that I can give them a sense that St John's is very much 'their church' and that, together, we can be building the church for the future.

'Love Your Neighbour' – during these wintry months of January and February, I know we will be 'looking out' for those around us who may be ill or in some need. It would be particularly good if, during the fortnight spanning the end of January and the start of February, those in the church family might think of ways in which they might offer some hospitality to friends. How about inviting some people round for a celebration of Burns night (Saturday 25 January) or just of a cup of mid-week coffee? Jesus encourages us to 'love our neighbours', and we could, for sure, all do with some cheering up at this time of the year!

Revd Peter

Presentation for Sarah Hunt - as many of you will know Sarah Hunt stepped down from being Churchwarden at the end of the year. Sarah has been the only Church Warden at St John's for the last couple of years and has done an amazing job in her wonderful, organised and calm way and we are so grateful to her. As a small gesture of our appreciation we will be presenting Sarah with a gift after the 10am All Age Service on Sunday 26 January at St John's, Itchen Abbas - we hope you will join us for the service and also for drinks and nibbles afterwards.

Cathedral Passes - if anyone would like a pass to visit Winchester Cathedral, we have some in the office. Please let Beccy know and you can arrange to collect one for your visit.

For Your Prayers

for the presidential inauguration in the USA

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 Joan and the family and friends of Andrew Kennedy

for Cameo as they meet, the organisers, helpers and guests