



# Church Matters...

**Sunday 26 January 2025**  
**The Fourth 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 26 January

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

*coffee and teaching*

10am - All Age Worship - St John's, Itchen Abbas  
Revd Peter leading, talk by Sarah Noble & organist John Dover  
*presentation to Sarah Hunt*

5pm - UTX

6pm - Evensong - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy  
with Simon Ffennell leading and LLM Gerry Stacey preaching  
*organist John Purver*

### Monday 27 January

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

### Tuesday 28 January

7pm - PCC Meeting - St John's, Itchen Abbas

### Sunday 2 February

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

4pm - Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall

## Collect

God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out  
of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the  
glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of  
ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your  
people,  
and reveal the knowledge of  
your glory  
in the face of 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 113

Praise the Lord!  
Praise, O servants of the Lord;  
praise the name of the Lord.

**Blessed be the name of  
the Lord  
from this time on and for  
evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to  
its setting  
the name of the Lord is to  
be praised.

**The Lord is high above  
all nations,  
and his glory above the  
heavens.**

Who is like the Lord our God,  
who is seated on high,  
**who looks far down  
on the heavens and  
the earth?**

He raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the  
ash heap,  
**to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of  
his people.**

He gives the barren woman  
a home,  
making her the joyous mother  
of children.

Praise the Lord!

**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**

## **Deuteronomy 30:11-15**

Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

## **Luke 2:22-32**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

# Notice Board

**CHURCH ALIVE in '25** – thank you for those who handed in their Response Forms last week, as well as all those who spoke to me privately about the way they felt the Lord was leading them. It is good to be going through this time of prayerful discernment together, looking to the Lord, as we continue to reflect on how we go forward as Christian community throughout the coming year. Do continue to share your ideas with me; and “let the Lord lead!”

**‘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 this 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.

**Café Church** - our next Café Church will be this Sunday (2 February) 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!

## For Your Prayers

for the global peace and security in the wake of the recent USA  
presidential inauguration

for those who are ill or suffering at the moment or for those recently bereaved  
for the PCC as they meet