

ITCHEN
VALLEY



CHURCHES

Church Matters...

Sunday 6 January 2025
Second Sunday of Christmas

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 5 January

10am - Parish Communion - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
with Revd Peter leading and LLM Gerry Stacey preaching
organist John Dover

4pm - Café Church - Itchen Abbas Village Hall
details on page 4

Monday 6 January

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

Saturday 11 January

10.30am - St Swithun's West Window Appeal - MW Village Hall
details on page 4

Sunday 12 January

8.30am - BCP Communion - St Mary's, Easton
10am Valley Worship & Ark - St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
details on page 4

Collect

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new
light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of
your love:
help us to walk in his light and
dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness
of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 147:12-20

Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
**For he strengthens the bars
of your gates;
he blesses your children
within you.**
He grants peace within
your borders;
he fills you with the finest
of wheat.
**He sends out his command
to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.

**He hurls down hail like
crumbs—
who can stand before
his cold?**

He sends out his word and
melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and
the waters flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances
to Israel.**

He has not dealt thus with
any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances.
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**

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1:10-18

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Notice Board

Café Church - our next Café Church will be this Sunday (5 January) 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!

Valley Worship & Ark - next Sunday (12 January) Valley Worship returns for the new year to St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy - John and Nicky Barber will be leading and preaching and Tim Clapp will be leading the worship. During the service the children will be entertained in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there.

West Window Appeal - plans are afoot to install a new engraved window in St Swithun's Church by the renowned artist Tracey Sheppard. Please join us between 10.30am - 12pm at Martyr Worthy Village Hall for coffee and cake and the opportunity to meet Tracey and hear about the appeal. Everyone is welcome, RSVP mumgod@aol.com or just come along!

CHURCH ALIVE in '25 - I hope that by now all of you who are on the Electoral Roll or within the Worshipping Community will have received my letter (entitled "CHURCH ALIVE in '25!") and will be finding some time to pray through some of the idea and suggestions within it, such that you can fill in the Response Form to the Parish Office by Monday 13 January.

However, at our Sunday services on both January 5 and 12, there will be a moment when we can dedicate the New Year to the Lord's service; so it would be lovely if many are able to hand in their completed Response Forms in the offertory plate at that time.

I do hope you will find this a helpful process and that we will thus be able, as a Church family, to go into the New Year with a strong sense of confidence and hope.

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