

ST THOMAS'S

TEAM VICAR. The Revd Kirsty Clarke has been appointed to be Team Vicar in the Shaftesbury Team and will be licensed to her new post by the Bishop of Sherborne in a special service at 5pm on Sunday 8th September in St James' Church.

CHANGE OF SERVICE TIMES: with Kirsty as our new vicar, we would like to enable her to come to both our communion services. To achieve this, we are going to try having all our services at 11.15 am., starting from September. Matins will be on the first Sunday, communion on the second and fourth. It is proposed to have coffee before one of the services and to shorten Matins slightly by the omission of one hymn. Please let a member of the PCC know your views as this is for a trial period.

VICARAGE GARDENING: helpers needed please for the vicarage garden before Kirsty arrives; namely, removal of growth from the outside of the house and strimming of paths, pruning of shrubs and roses. The mowing is in hand. Melbury Churchwarden Jon Dakin who is coordinating proposes either 17th or 24th August but is happy to consider a weekday. Please contact him if you can help - jdakin1234@gmail.com. Mobile 07767 686430 or 01747 855976.

You are warmly invited to the **VILLAGE PICNIC** 12:30 onwards, Sunday 18 August at Manor Farm (the Kays'), in the barn if wet. Bring your own picnic. Rounders at 3 p.m. whatever the weather. Contact melburyandcannmilleniumgroup@gmail.com

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE: Jon Dakin and Rodney Atwood will once again be taking part in the Dorset Historic Churches' Ride and Stride on 14 September, to raise money for our church and projects at others in Dorset.

DEANERY EUCHARIST will be at St Mary's Gillingham Sunday 22 September at 11am. Preacher: The Ven Penny Sayer, Archdeacon of Sherborne. Followed by a shared lunch (bring your own packed lunch).

For pewsheet notices please contact Rodney Atwood on 01747 855255 or email: harrietatwood@hotmail.com

WELCOME to St Thomas's Church, Melbury Abbas

If you are new to the church or visiting, please introduce yourself to one of the team so we might get to know you better.

Team Office is open Mon - Fri 9am - 12pm
Tel: 853060 email: office@ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk
www.ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk

THE SHAFTESBURY TEAM
St Thomas's, Melbury Abbas



Sunday 11th August – Eighth Sunday after Trinity
11.15am – Parish Communion

Sunday 18th August – The Blessed Virgin Mary
No service at St Thomas' today

Sunday 25th August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity
11.15am Matins

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First reading: *Genesis 15.1-6*

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Second reading: *Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Gospel reading: *Luke 12.32-40*

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.