

## Notices and Dates for your diaries:

We welcome back **REV SIMON CHAMBERS** after his sabbatical.

**BOB AND SUE BREACH** thank the congregation for their prayers for their grandson Rory. He is now recuperating after a successful heart operation.

**ST THOMAS'S PRESERVATION SOCIETY** are holding their Christmas coffee morning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the Village Hall. With stalls offering gifts, cakes, books, Christmas decorations, Bric-a-Brac, Wreaths, local produce including honey, leather goods, charcuterie, candles and pet portraits, this is an ideal opportunity to buy your Christmas presents. Then enjoy a coffee and slice of cake in the café corner.

**'ROCK NATIVITY'** This unusual take on the Nativity story in two musical acts will be performed on December 7th in St. Peter's church, Shaftesbury, St. James church, Gold Hill on December 8th and St. Mary's, Motcombe on Dec 9th. musical director David Grierson has worked his magic on this little known but interesting musical version, and the visual dramatic scenes are directed by Rosie King. David and Rosie have worked together previously, with all proceeds from the shows going directly to the upkeep of the team churches.

Tickets are available from Shaftesbury Arts Centre, Motcombe Community Shop and the participating churches and church office, which is at Gold Hill, priced £10 for adults, with a reduction for children. Support your local churches ...it costs a great deal to maintain their fabric...and enjoy a musical treat with a difference.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTINGLE SERVICES:** ST MARY'S, MOTCOMBE SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER AND ST JAMES'S SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER. BOTH AT 4.30PM. This year, two Team Christingle Services will be held on the dates and times shown above. These short, part candle-lit celebrations have become a traditional start to the Christmas season for young children and adults alike. Please come along and enjoy one or both in a happy and friendly atmosphere.

**VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEMES** for hospital visits, delivery or collection may be contacted as follows:

Shaftesbury Link:- Debbie on 01747 850439.

Gillingham Link:- several volunteers, manning 07599 311443.

**FOR PEWSHEET NOTICES** please contact Rodney Atwood on 01747 855255 or 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.

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Team Office is open Mon - Fri 9am - 12pm  
Tel: 853060 email: [office@ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk](mailto:office@ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk)  
[www.ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk](http://www.ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk)

THE SHAFTESBURY TEAM  
**St Thomas's, Melbury Abbas**



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**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday**

**10.50am – Remembrance Service**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Second Sunday before Advent**

**No service this week at St Thomas's**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christ the King Next before Advent**

**11.15am Matins**

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## Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things In your beloved Son, the King of all: Govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
And bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## First Reading *Amos 5.18-24*

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

## Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 4.13-18*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## Gospel Reading *Matthew 25.1-13*

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## Post Communion Prayer

God of peace, whose Son Jesus proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: Look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.