

Notices and Dates for your diaries:

On Sunday 21st January there is a **United Service** at Father's House at 10.30am for the week of prayer for Christian Unity. All are welcome.

Our three Christmas Services were well supported with a total of nearly 150 attending. Especially heartening was the number on Christmas morning, fifty-seven. A very warm thank you to those who came and to all those involved in the preparation and running of the services, not least the readers representing different local groups at the Carol Service. The church was as always beautifully decorated.

Parochial Church Council: the PCC supports the Revd Simon Chambers in the practical running of St Thomas's. Its job is made doubly difficult by the absence of a secretary to record minutes of meetings and keep the parish records. If any public-spirited person would take on the job, or even join the PCC, he or she would be warmly welcomed.

Pilgrim Course. The two groups who met with John and Jeremy for the Autumn Courses will combine for one Pilgrim Course this January and February. The focus for discussion will be the Eucharist. The course will take place at St. Peter's Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings starting on Wednesday January 17th. There will be six sessions with a break on February 14th for Ash Wednesday. We look forward to renewing fellowship with those who attended one or other of the Autumn courses, but everyone is welcome to join us and it is not essential to have attended one of the Autumn courses. For more details do contact John Fuller on 01747 850079. As before a study guide will be available. We look forward to seeing you.

Lent groups; Can you be a host or leader, or both, for a Lent group please.? If so, please sign the sheet at the back of church. As Easter is early this year, names should be with Elizabeth Preston by Thursday 18th January at the latest. You can email Elizabeth, lizziepreston1@gmail.com with the information, leave a message in Shaftesbury Team office or deliver to 15 The Knapp. Groups will use the York Course "On the third day" by Rev. John Pritchard. It is a five week study. Elizabeth will try to get books to participants before the start. Each group will have a CD as well, so to cover the cost, we shall need to charge £5 - the same as last year.

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.

Team Office is open Mon - Fri 9am - 12pm
Tel: 853060 email: office@ShaftesburyCofE.org.uk
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THE SHAFTESBURY TEAM
St Thomas's, Melbury Abbas



Sunday 14th January – The Second Sunday of Epiphany
11.15am – Parish Communion

Sunday 21st January – The Third Sunday of Epiphany
No service at St Thomas's

Sunday 28th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple
11.15am - Matins

Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.

First Reading 1 Samuel 3.1-10[11-20]

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

[Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

Second Reading Revelation 5.1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

Gospel Reading John 1.43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Post Communion Prayer

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.