

Notices and Dates for your diaries:

Team Service for Ash Wednesday at Motcombe, 7pm Wednesday 14th February.

Parish Fundraising and Stewardship: the Parochial Church Council (the P.C.C.) is delighted to report that last year's campaign produced a surplus of £926 in contrast to the deficit of the previous year. However, single donations which may not be repeated contributed much to this, so we definitely cannot abandon our efforts to improve our finances. Warmest thanks to all those who generously answered our appeal. With the goodly numbers attending our Christmas services, this is encouraging for the church's future.

Full details at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (the church's AGM) on 20 April.

The PCC supports the Revd Simon Chambers in the practical running of St Thomas's. It is urgently looking for a secretary who can take the minutes and keep the church records and other future members to help its work.

Please pray for the family of **John Williamson** of Cann Common who died some days ago. John and his wife Judith who came to Dorset from Lincolnshire entered into village life; he served on the VPA committee. His funeral is at the West Dorset Crematorium at 12:15 on 9 February.

Future Events: Two future events are the Weldmar Snowdrop Service, Monday, 12 February at Bell Street, 3 p.m. and the Shrove Tuesday Quiz with Pancakes, 13 February, 7.30 p.m. at the Father's House.

The Churches Together Lent Groups are a good opportunity to reflect on our faith and pray together. The list of available groups is displayed at the back of church? The groups take place at various times on different days and start the week beginning 19th February for five weeks. The cost of the course book, "On the Third Day" by Rev John Pritchard, is £5. Books will be available at or before the first session. Contact Elizabeth Preston if you need more details - 01747 850654 or speak to Alan Kirkham.

For Pewsheet Notices: next week **only** please contact Robert Crichton on Robert.crichton@btopenworld.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 4th February – Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am – Parish Communion

Sunday 11th February – Next before Lent

11.15am – Parish Communion

Sunday 18th February – First Sunday of Lent

No service at St Thomas's

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

First Reading Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

Second Reading Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel Reading John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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

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.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.