

## Notices and Dates for your diaries:

**Team Service for Ash Wednesday** The Team Service on Ash Wednesday is at Motcombe, 7pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Parish Fundraising and Stewardship:** The Parochial Church Council (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.

**PCC Membership.** The PCC supports the Revd. Simon Chambers in the practical running of St Thomas's. It is urgently looking for an Hon. Secretary who can take the minutes and keep the church records and also for other members to help its work.

**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 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.

**Lent Lunches.** Lent lunches take place in the Town Hall on each Friday during Lent starting at 12 noon to 1.30 pm. It is a good opportunity to meet friends from outside our parish. Parishes and other Christian organizations in Shaftesbury take it in turns to organize the lunches. We [and the Quakers] are responsible for the lunch on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Do try to attend the lunches if you can and particularly on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Donations are welcome from those unable to attend.

**Pewsheet Notices:** If you have anything for the pew sheet please let Rodney Atwood [harrietatwood@hotmail.com] know by lunch time the previous Wednesday.

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



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**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Next before Lent**

**11.15am – Parish Communion**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – First Sunday of Lent**

**No service at St Thomas's**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday of Lent**

**11.15am - Matins**

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## **Collect**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## **First Reading** 2 Kings 2.1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## **Second Reading** 2 Corinthians 4.3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus

Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **Gospel Reading** Mark 9.2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.