

Notices and Dates for your diaries:

Lent Lunches take place in the Town Hall each Friday during Lent starting at 12 noon to 1.30 pm. Please come if you can. Donations are welcome from those unable to attend.

Fairtrade On Saturday March 17th there will be a Fairtrade Tea with stalls and information, at the Friends Meeting House from 2.30 to 4.30 pm, as part of Fairtrade fortnight.

Pat Fry and friends invite you to a Quiz and Easter Raffle at the Village Hall at 7.30 for 8 p.m. on Friday, 23rd March. Teams of four, entry £1 a person.

Flower Arranging for Easter: Ann Brooks and Valerie Warrington look forward to seeing those on the rota and anyone who would like to join them for arranging of Easter flowers at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 31 March.;

Low Sunday 8th April: there will be a 10.00am Team Service at St Mary's Motcombe due to the limited availability of clergy after Easter. A planned BCP Communion at St Thomas's will have to be re-scheduled.

Reports of various church activities for the APCM on 20 April will be incorporated into the annual report which will be circulated. These reports (sidesmen, bells, flowers, sacristans, electoral roll, team council and so forth – may be only a couple of essential sentences) should be sent to Alan Kirkham for incorporation into the 2017 annual report.

Safeguarding: anyone whose role involves contact with children or the vulnerable may need safeguarding training and should speak to Alan Kirkham.

Due to the recent adverse weather, the **Women's World Day of Prayer** services in Shaftesbury were cancelled, or had small congregations, resulting in very little being given to support the WWDP charities. The service sheets will be available on Sunday 11th March so those who missed the service may have them and donate then if they wish.

Pewsheets 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.

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 March – Mothering Sunday
11.15am – Parish Communion

Sunday 18th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent
No Service at St Thomas's

Sunday 25th March – Palm Sunday
11.15am – Matins with Passion Reading

Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 1.20-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being

consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Gospel Reading John 19.25-27

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.