

Notices and Dates for your diaries:

CHURCH SPRING-CLEANING: a grateful thanks to all those who helped in the church spring-cleaning on Saturday, 14 April. The effect on St Thomas's interior is noticeable.

TEAM OFFICE Please note the Team office is closing on Friday May 11th at 12 noon and will reopen on Monday 21st May at 9am.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE TEAM SERVICE AT ST PETER'S at 10 a.m. 29 April. The collection will be for the charity, Cord (Christian Outreach for Relief and Development), which has been working in Cambodia, in Southeast Asia for 30 years. Its work in defending human rights and supporting community groups has been made harder recently by a government which has scant respect for the individual and has increased its exploitation of natural resources – including the country's forests - while intimidating and imposing restrictions on any who oppose its measures.

“WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO IN CHURCH”

Due to the weather this has been rescheduled to Sunday 29th April. The Revd Simon Chambers will again be leading a discussion on the Liturgy and Praxis of our church services to help reveal just why we do what we do in church. This talk and discussion was very well received last year. Sunday 29th April 3pm in St James, with refreshments, open to all.

TRAI DCRAFT CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH

Due to the recent weather, one of the Christian Aid Lunches has been rescheduled for Wednesday May 16th in Shaftesbury Town Hall. Soup Lunch with middle eastern extras - 12noon until 1.30pm Traidcraft and bring and buy. All welcome

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.

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 22nd April – Fourth Sunday of Easter
11.15am Matins

Sunday 29th April – Fifth Sunday of Easter
No Service at St Thomas
10.00am Team Service at St Peters
followed by Team Council AGM

Sunday 6th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter
9.30am Parish Communion

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Acts 4.5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.”

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Second Reading 1 John 3.16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Reading John 10.11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'