

Parish News for the Parish of St James and St John, Enmore Green, in the Shaftesbury Team

Sunday 18th February First Sunday of Lent

St James 9:30 a.m. CW Parish Communion (Revd. Dr. Simon Chambers)
Readings: Genesis ch. 9, vs. 8-17, 1 Peter ch. 3, vs. 18-22, Mark ch. 1, vs. 9-15
St John 11:15 a.m. CW Parish Communion (Revd. Dr. Simon Chambers)
Monday 19th February St John 6:00 p.m. Choir practice
Wednesday 21st February St James 9:00 a.m. Morning prayer

11:30 a.m. Funeral of Alan Martin (Revd. Dr. Simon Chambers)
Thursday 22nd February St James 7:00 p.m. CW Communion (Revd. Dr. Simon Chambers)
Friday 23rd February St James 9:00 a.m. Morning prayer
Sunday 25th February St James 8:00 a.m. BCP Communion (Revd. Dr. Simon Chambers)
9:30 a.m. CW Parish Communion (Revd. Dr. Simon Chambers)
St John 11:15 a.m. Family Service (
St James 2:00 p.m. Baptism-Mali Amber Ralph (Revd. Dr. Simon Chambers)

Please pray for our neighbours and friends who are unwell: Sheila Brock, Edgar Francis, Jeff Parker, Alec, Jo Churchill, Rev John Pearson and Andrew Lobb. Pray for the family and friends of those who have died recently, Alan Martin and Nigel Down, Reg Henstridge Audrey Brockway and for those on this year's mind list.

What no loo!! Last year I asked you to help with funding so St James could have a twinned loo with a third world town that currently doesn't have one. (Can you imagine not having access to a toilet!) We achieved it through a generous donation, and are part way to funding a second loo. Can I suggest that throughout Lent, each time you 'spend a penny' you actually put a penny in a jar so we can make a second loo 'happen'. There are collection tins in the loos at St James. Many thanks.

PILGRIM COURSE The course on the Eucharist led by John Fuller, resumes on Wednesday 21st February at John and Jill Fuller's house. Any queries do phone John on 01747 850079.

The Churches Together Lent groups; The list of Lent groups is displayed at the back of the church. **It is not too late to sign up to a group but please let Elizabeth know if you wish to do so - 01747 850654 or lizziepreston1@gmail.com** as numbers in some groups are limited. Some groups have been amalgamated to make them more viable. Books will be available at the first session during the week beginning 19th February, but if you have given me your address I will try to deliver a copy to you beforehand.

Christian Aid Dates: Lent Lunches.... These take place in the Town Hall every Friday from 12-1:30 p.m..

A wonderful chance to enjoy good company with a bowl of good soup, with donations to Christian Aid (gift Aid envelopes available). St James' and St John's are combining with Father's House to host the Lunch on March 2nd

St James Church, Shaftesbury is having a 'spring-clean' in their archiving department. It's time to get the records straight and make sure we have as much information about the church as possible, especially as we are preparing for our first stage of 're-ordering', focussing on lighting, audio and decoration. We are looking for any documentation or records appertaining to the church and its surroundings which can be added to the compilation. We would also be delighted to hear from anyone interested in being involved in the compiling of data, photographing/scanning and filing of documents to ensure we have a history of the church and its life for posterity. To know more please telephone – Andie 853088 or Philippa 01747 812365.

Women's World Day of Prayer. Friday 2nd March This year the service has been prepared by the women of Suriname, with the theme All God's Creation is Very Good. All are welcome to the services in Shaftesbury at Bell Street United Church at 11 a.m. or the Friends Meeting House at 7:30 p.m.. More details from Elizabeth Preston or Rosemary Saxey. As usual, there is the opportunity take or help lead the worship, so they will be happy to speak to you if you would like to help.

Syrian Refugees part 2. Our two Syrian refugee families arrived in Shaftesbury on 12th December, on a very cold evening, exhausted, having flown from Lebanon, where they had been living for three years in. UN camp. The older brother Atef with his wife Hanadi have a boy aged 12 at Shaftesbury School, and two more boys aged 9 and 6. Atef's younger brother Amman and his wife Samar have two girls aged 9 and 4, at Abbey Primary School. It was wonderful that our properties were just right to enable these two families to remain together in one place. They are in close contact by phone with many other family members.

A few of us have the role of "befrienders", visiting them and helping get school uniforms, etc. From the start, we have been welcomed by them with warmth and bright smiles and sweet tea as they quickly adjusted to their new surroundings. They are practising Muslims and have been taken to mosques in Yeovil and in Bournemouth by Hamza, a Syrian who has started to work with the Dorset Refugee Resettlement Officer, Steph. They have begun to make links with other Syrian families in Dorset.

They do not speak English but are having almost daily language lessons with a group of TEFL-trained volunteers and coordinator. The children are all settling very happily in their schools having had a really good welcome. They are beginning to receive invitations to birthday parties!