SOUTH SUDAN  We are praying daily for peace in the new state of South Sudan with whom Salisbury Diocese has been linked for 40 years but is now experiencing what might turn out to be a new civil war. The diocese, of which we are part, is committed to helping those who have been made homeless and who are experiencing poverty as a result of the troubles. If you would like to donate to support this work you can do it in the following ways.

**Online** - the simplest way is to give directly online at justgiving.com/sdbf, where you can also find learn how to fundraise yourself using the Just Giving tools.

**By text** - you can donate £10 by texting "SSUD14 £10" to 70070, free from any UK network. **By cheque** - please make cheques payable to "Salisbury DBF SSA" and send them to: South Sudan Appeal, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB

**SONGS OF PRAISE** Congratulations and a very big THANK YOU to you all for your efforts in making this service so special. The church looked delightful, clean and bright; the flowers stunning. The food was delicious too. We now have another hymn from Bob which we will be able to sing from time to time. God provided in abundance. Bishop Nicholas enjoyed his visit with us and it was lovely that he spent time talking to so many. There will soon be some photographs on our noticeboard, so watch this space. £262.70 was banked for the Sudan Link last week, from the collection taken at Songs of Praise.

**Saturday 10th May from St Thomas Melbury Abbas** The Two Churches Quiz Walk - with TEA! – Come and join the Quiz Walk from Melbury to Compton – with a 24 cryptic questions to answer on the way. We’ll leave St Thomas Melbury Abbas at 2.30 and walk over Melbury Beacon to St Mary’s Compton Abbas. A 1.75 mile walk with a steep climb on the way up - well-behaved dogs are welcome. At Compton Abbas, you are invited to tea and cake in the Church Hall and there will be a chance to walk round St Mary’s and discover Twenty One Interesting Things about our church. For those who don’t fancy walking back over the Beacon, there will be transport back to Melbury from 4.30 pm onwards. For further details Contact Gillian Cross Tel: 01747 811263 Email: gillian@gilliancross.co.uk

We now have a **PRAYER BOARD** in the church in the Coffee area. This will help us to pray for those in need.

**APCM** – 25th April. Rodney Atwood is standing down as after 7 years, our thanks for all that he has done over the past years. We shall be looking for new PCC members to join us approximately 4 enjoyable meetings a year

**BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GARDENS OF DORSET** By Alan Eason £10 inc supper and a glass of wine in MA Village tickets available from Sue Breach or Jess Crichton Fri 4th April run by the Preservation Society

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**THE SHAFTESBURY TEAM**

**St Thomas, Melbury Abbas**

**Notice Sheet**

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**Today – 16th March – Lent 2**

- 9.30am Parish Communion – Rev Eve Pegler

  **Readings:**
  - Genesis 12: 1-4a
  - Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
  - John 3: 1-17

  **Sidemsn:**
  - Robert Crichton

**Next Sunday – 23rd March – Lent 3**

- 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – Rev Jan Crossley

  **Readings:**
  - Exodus 17: 1-7
  - Romans 5: 1-11
  - John 4: 5-42

  **Sidemsn:**
  - Jon Dakin

Welcome to St Thomas Church, and to the visiting bell ringers from Maidstone. If you are new to the church or visiting please do introduce yourself to one of the team so we might get to know you better.

**Diary Dates:**

**Fridays**

- 8.30am Morning Prayer in Church *All Welcome*

**March**

- Thurs 20th 2-4pm Snip and Sew – working on the Sudan Stoles

- Fri 21st 12-1.30 Lent Lunch – Shaftesbury Town Hall

**Thurs 27th 2.00pm** Lent Course – ‘Living Faithfully’ Sue Helyar’s house

- Fri 28th 12-1.30pm Lent Lunch – St Thomas hosting

**April**

- Fri 4th 7 for 7.30pm Brief History of the Gardens of Dorset

**LENT LUNCHES** will be held in the Town Hall, Shaftesbury on six consecutive Fridays starting Friday 7 March from 12.00 to 1.30pm. This is an opportunity to meet friends to enjoy home made soup with bread and cheese followed by tea/coffee, and at the same time help to make a valuable contribution to the work of Christian Aid, which is so needed at this time.

**St Thomas** will be providing the lunch with The Friends on **Friday 28 March**, and once more we are seeking offers of soup, help on the day, donations towards the cost of the cheese, and items for the Bring and Buy stall. If you can help in any of these ways, please contact Ellen Brine (853161) or Angela Lane (854506).

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**Contacts:**

- Rev Jan Crossley Tel: 852545 Email jan@stmin.org.uk
- Team Office is open Monday - Friday 9.30 -12.30
- Tel: 853060 email office@stmin.org.uk www.stmin.org.uk

Please email items for the notice sheet to the office by Thursday 9.30am
Collect Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Genesis 12: 1-4a
Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Second Reading Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherence of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Gospel Reading John 3: 1-7
Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.”' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Prayer after Communion
Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for:-
the healing and wholeness in body mind and spirit for Edward Jacson, Eva, Brian and Liz Pickford,
For Otto Ford baptised on 9th March
for the members of our armed services.
for peace in countries throughout the world where there is war and conflict, especially Egypt, Afghanistan, Syria, The Ukraine & Crimea, Korea and for persecuted Christians in Pakistan.
our link with the Lui Diocese, in South Sudan, and for continuing peace talks in South Sudan.
For those affected by the extreme weather conditions in this country.
For all who in ministry training, thinking especially of Kirsty who is an ordinand in our team.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL We have received an invitation to the Maundy Thursday service at Salisbury Cathedral on 17th April at 11am. They would be grateful to know numbers, so if you can come please let Kirsty know (details at below), by 28th March for her to book our places. Many thanks