Lent House Groups. This year we will join with Churches Together for our Lent bible studies. They begin on 23rd February and will run for 6 weeks. 5 of the weeks the groups will meet in various homes. The 6th session will be held as a joint meeting after Easter. The date for this has yet to be arranged The course is by John Ortberg using his book 'The Life You've Always Wanted.' More details will follow shortly.

Dorset Historic Trust's annual 'Ride and Stride' raised £80,000 this year. The chairman wishes to thank all of those people who cycled and to all friends and family who sponsored them. Well done Rodney and to those who sponsored him from our church.

Church Diary For those wishing to use our church mid-week, please make sure that you check with either Jan or Kirsty first so that it can be booked in the diary. Otherwise, baptisms, funerals or weddings must take priority if your event is not in the diary.

Lent Lunches will be held in the Town Hall, Shaftesbury on six consecutive Fridays starting Friday 20 February 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's will be providing the lunch with The Friends on Friday 6 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).

Forthcoming events in the village hall
Sat 28th February 8 for 8.30 – Bingo
Sat 7th March 8 for 8.30 Quiz time
Sat 14th March 7.30 for 8 An Irish Night

please see the notice board for details

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER March 6th 2015
11.00 am at the United Church in Bell Street
7.30 pm at the Friends Meeting House in Abbey Walk

This year we are supporting the church in the Bahamas Please come and join us!

Recycling Sale for Sudan - Our ever-popular sale will take place on Saturday 28th March at the Town Hall from 10a.m., so please start sorting out all those things you no longer need or want. Julian Richard will be pleased to receive these and larger items can be collected. (Julian. 852883).

Contact: Rev Jan Crossley Tel: 852545 Email jan@stmin.org.uk
Team Office is open Mon, Tues, Fri 9-12, Wed 10-12
Tel: 853060 Email office@stmin.org.uk www.stmin.org.uk

THE SHAFTESBURY TEAM
St Thomas, Melbury Abbas
Notice Sheet

Sunday 22nd February – Lent 1
11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev Simon Chambers
Readings: Exodus 14: 11-13 Hebrews 3:7-4:2, 4:14-16 Mark 1:9-15

Sunday 1st March – Lent 2
9.30am Parish Communion (CW1) Rev Jan Crossley
Readings: Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16 Romans 4:13-end Mark 8: 31-end

Welcome to St Thomas Church. 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
Fri 6th St Thomas’ Host Lent Lunch – Town Hall
11.00am Women’s World Day of Prayer – Bell Street
7.30pm Women’s World Day of Prayer – Friends House

Sat 28th 10.00am Recycling Sale for Sudan – Town Hall
Collect Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 Exodus 14:11-13
They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ 13 But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’

Second Reading Hebrews 3:7-4:2, 4:14-16
Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, as on the day of testing in the wilderness, 9 where your ancestors put me to the test, though they had seen my works 10 for forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, and I said, “They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known my ways.”’ 11 As in my anger I swore, “They will not enter my rest.”’ 12 Take care, brothers and sisters, 13 that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 14 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’, so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 15 For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. 16 As it is said, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’

Gospel Reading Mark 9: 2-9
In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. 12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

Please pray for:
the healing and wholeness in body mind and spirit for Bob Breach, Pam Deeker, Edward Jacson, Marjorie Millington, and those known to us who are in need of our prayers,
also for the family of Richard Marshall, Juliet James & Susan Kay
for peace in Syria and Iraq for peace and for other countries throughout the world where there is conflict.
our link with the Lui Diocese, in South Sudan.
for those suffering as a result of the ebola epidemic in Africa.