

Events This week

Wednesday 18th January

Holy Communion at St Thomas' Tangley 10am

Vestry Hour – 5.30 – 6.30 at St Thomas' Charlton.

Friday 20th January

Holy Communion at Weyhill 2.30pm

Notices from around the Benefice...

Friday 27th Jan Peter Gladwin Talk at Hatherden Church 7.30 followed by drinks & nibbles. A free event.

Saturday 28th Jan Prayer Day – Praying with Confidence at Charlton 10 – 12 with coffee etc.

Sunday 29th Jan Benefice Service at St Thomas' Charlton 10.30am to Launch our Year of Prayer.

Followed by a bring and share lunch please see you church coordinator for more information.

This week is the last Vestry Hour, full details of how to book in the future will be in next week's issue.

In your Prayers please pray for.....

For the week of Christian Unity, let us all be united in praising Jesus Christ.

Our New Encounters with Jesus Service

The 'Is God Relevant Today?' courses starting at Charlton, Hatherden and Penton

The launch of 'The Year of Prayer' on 29th January

The PCC's Away Day on 11th February

Community Diary Dates

16th – 20th Jan Prayer week at The Bridge St. Methodist Church 12.30 – 1pm daily except Wednesday which is in the Time Ring in the High St. All part of Week of Christian Unity.

20-21st Jan Unity Theatre perform 'Happy Forever After' Panto at The Lights tickets via the lights or Sharon O'Leary - sharon.oleary@virginmedia.com

Sunday 22 Jan Andover Churches Together - United Service - Bridge St Methodist Church 6.30pm

Readings This Week

Iss. 49. 1 – 7

Psalm 40. 1 – 12

1 Cor. 1. 1 – 9

John 1. 29 - 42

Next Week

Iss. 9. 1 – 4 Psalm 27. 1, 4 – 12 (or 27. 1 – 11)

1 Cor. 1. 10 – 18

Matt. 4. 12 - 23

Words of Encouragement

Are you looking forward to getting back to normal after the Christmas and New Year holidays?

Christmas can be a time of tension and it can be a relief to have reached January relatively unscathed. But fortunately the Bible gives us guidance on resolving conflict....read Matthew 18:15-20. Jesus tells us to first go and speak to the person alone...if we hear the view of the other person we may realise that the fault lies not with them but with us. Wisdom comes in honouring the position of the other person and avoiding gossiping and point scoring.

In the 6th Century, Benedict wrote a rule for monks that incorporated Jesus' approach to conflict resolution. He was also at pains to avoid 'murmuratio', or grumbling, which could undermine any community, as surely as it did the Israelites wandering in the wilderness with their hardened hearts. Grumbling goes viral, like a flashmob, as people can gossip and plot over coffee and in cliques. The response for Jesus and Benedict is attentiveness. If someone upsets you, don't gossip about them, but instead make time and space for them. Listen, understand and respond with love. If finally, you have to acknowledge a broken relationship, you can do so knowing you have worked for peace and reconciliation.

May God bless you all richly in this New Year, Val

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Please return your 'Is God Relevant Today' cards ASAP or contact 07799 352585 or admin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk with contact details to show your interest. Thank You