

Issue No 4 Sunday 29th January 2017

Events This week

Sunday 29th – Benefice Service Charlton 10.30am followed by lunch.

Wednesday 1st – Holy Communion Tangley 10am

Friday 3rd – Holy Communion Charlton 2.30pm

Notices from around the Benefice...

To book a Wedding or Baptism please contact Judith, Benefice Administrator on 07999 352585 or email admin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk

Thursday 9th February – Eco-church Tools for Transformation The Bridge, Bridge St, Andover 7.30pm

Saturday 11th February PCC Away day at Hatherden School 9.30am – 3pm for all PCC Members

In your Prayers please pray for.....

The launch of our Year of Prayer 2017 this weekend.

Those who are bereaved and that they know the love of God as they journey with grief.

For Messy church and its growth at Hatherden and Smannell Schools.

Enquirers courses starting in Charlton and Penton on Thursday 9th February

The Bishop's Commissioning service on 14th March.

Community Diary Dates

Passion Play – Good Friday, please contact sharon.oleary@virginmedia.com to take part.

Readings This Week

I Kings 17.8 - 16 Psalm 36 5 – 10
I Cor. 1. 18 - end John 2. 1 - 11

Next Week

Isa. 58 1 – 9a (9b – 12) Ps 112 (or 112 1 – 9)
I Cor. 2. 1 – 12 (13- end) Matt. 5. 13 - 20

Words of Encouragement

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

The image the writer of Hebrews had in mind was almost certainly that of the Isthmian Games held biannually in Corinth, where the competitors were indeed 'surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses', cheering them on. The 'Therefore' at the beginning refers to the previous chapter which lists great Old Testament heroes whom God sustained through the most terrible ordeals: they (and others) make up that "great crowd" referred to.

At the Olympics Games today we know how the enthusiastic support of those in the stands can give a real lift to the competitors, and even influence the results – why else would home teams have an advantage?

Well, as we run the human race today, we too are surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses in heaven – not only Old (and New) Testament heroes who have already won their race, but millions more, including those whom we have known and loved and who are now in the next life: *all* rooting for us as we, in the power of the Spirit, face and deal with everything that life throws at us. *Andrew Warner*

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Thank you for all your support, if you would like anything added to the Grapevine please contact Judith on 07999 352585 or email admin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk or write to Admin c/o The Rectory, Chalk Croft Lane, Penton Mewsey SP11 0RD