

Issue No 1 Sunday 8th January 2017

Events This week

Sunday 8th January

Encounters with Jesus launches tonight at Charlton church 6.30pm – All Welcome, see the attached leaflet for full details.

Wednesday 11th January

Holy Communion at St Thomas', Tangley 10am

Vestry Hour – 5.30pm-6.30pm at St Thomas', Charlton

Notices from around the Benefice...

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

Saturday 28th Jan - Prayer Day – look out for further information

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.

In your Prayers please pray for.....

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

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

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Ephesians 3: 1-12

Psalms 72: 1-15
Matthew 2: 1-12

Next Week

Iss. 49. 1 – 7
1 Cor. 1. 1 – 9

Psalms 40. 1 – 12
John 1. 29 - 42

Words of Encouragement

Luke 2: 16-20

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

I wonder how often you are actually amazed? It was a common experience of many within the Gospels. Peter was amazed at the catch of fish; people were amazed that Jesus had "done all things well" and also because of "the gracious words that came from his mouth"; and Mary herself was amazed to the point of exclaiming that God "has done great things for me." Mary feels the amazement of giving birth and, as in other moments, she "ponders these (amazing) things in her heart."

Amazement is when the love, grace, and truth of God are experienced beyond what one thought could ever occur. No doubt, you and I, too, have perceived and do perceive the unmistakable goodness of God to us, even as we face the struggles of life. As we journey forward together to live out the mission of Jesus Christ, let us never lose the sense of wonder and awe of his amazing love for us!

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Please contact Judith on 07999 352585 or admin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk to have your events added. Copy deadline Mondays.