

## Events This week

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** Lent Course Charlton 9am & The Rectory Enham 9am

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>** Encounters Charlton – this week's topic is Bartimaeus

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** Messy Church – Smannell Sch 3pm

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** Commissioning Service with Bishop David, Penton 7.30pm all welcome

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>** Holy Communion Tangley 10am

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** Compline Charlton 9.15pm

## In your Prayers please pray for.....

All those who are unwell, anxious and suffering in mind, body and spirit may they draw close to God and know His presence beside them

That our young people in the Benefice will have a clearer understanding of Jesus so they live life in all its fullness

That Christians can join together with those who are like minded and make a difference for God in this world.

## Notices from around the Benefice...

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March Commissioning Service Holy Trinity Penton 7.30 pm – A Special service with Bishop David of Basingstoke.**

Thank you to all those people who are faithfully saying the prayer from our Year of Prayer card each day - please keep it up! If you haven't got a prayer card as yet, please do pick one up at the back of church.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Retreat Day at Penton Park to book your place please contact Judith on 07999 352585 by 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, spaces are limited.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** Messy Church Charlton 10.30 – All welcome, bring the children or grandchildren! Child free? perhaps you can lend a hand to the team helpers always welcome, for further info pls call Karen 07766 945118 or Val 07874 067371

## Community Diary Dates

**Passion Play** – The High St, Good Friday, also at The Lights Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm

**Andover Saturday Club** – 10.30 – 12.30 United Reform Church, pop in for a free taster session or call 01962 857099 for more info

**Timebanking Workshop** 10.30 – 1pm Friday 31st March at the Longmeadow Centre

## Readings This Week

Gen. 12. 1 – 4a

Ps 121

Rom. 4 1 – 5, 13-17

John 3. 1 - 17

## Next Week

Exod. 17. 1 – 7

Ps 95

Rom. 5. 1 – 11

John 4. 5 - 42

## Words of Encouragement

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Some people believe that God should spare Christians from troubles and calamities, but Jesus himself tells us in Matthew 24 that there will be wars, famines, earthquakes and persecution until He returns and establishes His eternal kingdom, where "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev 21:4)

The verse from John above comes just before Jesus' great prayer in Chapter 17 where he prays for the disciples and for us ("for those who will believe in me through their message") and asks the Father to protect us. That doesn't mean to exempt us from all the normal things that happen to people in this fallen and imperfect world, but to keep us safe in our relationship with Him through everything that happens to us – good or bad.

It is important for us to remember that our hope in Jesus is for eternal life with Him, not for an easy life in this world. When we understand and remember that we can have His peace in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. Jesus has overcome this world and the power of death, we need to trust and believe in Him. Sometimes this is harder than others, but it doesn't change the truth of the promise He has given us in Rev 21.

Alan Evans

## Notes from Pastrow Admin

Do you know of events that could have been advised? Email [admin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk](mailto:admin@pastrowbenefice.org.uk) with your info.