

## Events This week

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** Prayer Training St Thomas 9.30 am

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

Holy Communion 8 am Penton

All Age Worship 10 am Charlton

Holy Communion 10 am Enham

Family Service 10 am Hatherden

All Age Worship with Communion 10.30 Weyhill

Evensong 6 pm Tangley

ACT joint service 6.30 pm Charlton

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>** Messy Church Hatherden 3 pm

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>** Holy Communion 10 am Tangley

## Notices from around the Benefice....

Prayer Training Day with the Acorn Healing Trust  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 9.30 am Charlton, the day is  
designed for us all to explore more about prayer, to  
book please email or call Jude 07999 352585

Issue No 55 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018

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

All those affected by the wintery weather, may  
the first signs of spring give them hope

Our journey in the year of discipleship may our  
love of God be shared with others who perhaps  
do not see him as we do

The ACT service on Sunday, may we welcome all  
who come into our church

## Community Diary Dates

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January Andover Church's Together  
Joint Service 6.30 pm St Thomas' Charlton – All  
welcome.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan A talk by Bishop Bertin from the  
DRC at 7.30 in Nether Wallop village hall.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Antiques Fair 9 am St Thomas  
Charlton

## Readings This Week

Gen 14 17 – 20

Ps 128

Rev 19 6 – 10

John 2 1 - 11

## Next Week

Deut 18 15 – 20

Ps 111

Rev. 12 1 – 5a

Mark 1 21 - 28

## Words of Encouragement

By Revd Alex

Mark 3: 3-5

*And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.*

In this extract from the story of the man with the withered hand from Mark's gospel, Jesus perfectly shows his humanity and in doing so a very real lesson to us all on the nature of discipleship. You may have had a similar experience: someone provokes you and stands ready to call your mistake. Our emotional response to such people may be anger, grief, and frustration at their "hardness of heart." It feels like there is no appropriate response. Fortunately for us, Jesus shows us a response to those feelings.

It can be tempting to correct or condemn the people that frustrate us. Often, our words fall on deaf ears, and we end up fostering our own anger instead of diminishing theirs. Jesus' response is courageous action that demonstrates his loving stance which serves as an example of the spirit of the law.

There are plenty of ways we too can courageously demonstrate the spirit of the Gospel. As we journey together in this Year of Discipleship, who in your life needs your example of compassion, love, and hope, more than your words?

## Notes from Pastrow Admin

A quite time at present, but I am always here for all your bookings etc. call me on 07999 352585