

Services & events this week

Sunday 17th Evening Prayer 6 pm Linkenholt

Monday 18th Tea & Natter 2.30 pm Charlton

Wednesday 20th Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT & 10 am Tangley

Friday 22nd World Day of Prayer Service 2 pm Charlton

Services & events next week

Sunday 24th Play & Praise 3 pm Charlton

Encounters 6.30 pm Charlton

Monday 25th – Messy Church 3 – 5 pm Hatherden

Wednesday 27th Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT & 10 am Tangley

Friday 1st Holy Communion 1.30 pm Weyhill & 2.30 pm Charlton

Readings This Week

Jer 17 5 – 10

Ps 1

I Cor 15 12 – 20

Luke 6 17 - 26

Next Week

Gen 2 4b – 9, 15 – end

Ps 65

Rev ch 4

Luke 8 22 - 25

In your Prayers please pray for.....

Our benefice family, especially as our plans to grow are moving forward, please help us all to accept change

The staff in our schools as they take a rest and the pupils as they enjoy the freedom holidays bring may their carers know God is there to support and strengthen them

Those who are going on journeys, whether for holidays or work may they travel safely

Pastrow & Community Diary Dates

The Late Valentines Dinner! With talk by Jill Bentall Saturday 23rd February 7 pm The Fairground Weyhill tickets £10 inc 3 course supper (bring your own drink). To book call Jude 07999 352585

The worlds bestselling book being explored near you call Ian on 01264 749935 to find out about locations and timings.

Words of Encouragement

By Alan Evans

So, you've been slogging away through obstacle after obstacle, problem after problem. And you've finally arrived ... at the end of your tether. You feel ready to give up, to lay down and die. Now what?

We've probably all been in situations or had times when it's felt as though God's provision would run out. That feeling of finding yourself in an absolutely impossible situation, where nothing short of a miracle will do ... it's not a nice position to be in is it?

In 1 Kings 17:10-16 there is the story of a widow in the middle of a drought that God had brought about because of Israel's disobedience. She had little bit of flour left in a jar, a few drops of oil in a jug. She was out gathering wood to cook the final meal for herself and her son, before laying down to die. *All of a sudden, Elijah stumbles on the scene seemingly out of nowhere. He's starving too, so he asks her for a drink and a piece of bread. She tells him she is about to cook a last meal for herself and her son and then die. But Elijah said to the woman, "Don't worry. Go home and cook your food as you said. But first make a small piece of bread from the flour that you have and bring it to me. Then cook some for yourself and your son. The Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'That jar of flour will never be empty and the jug will always have oil in it. This will continue until the day the Lord sends rain to the land.'"*

It sounds impossible, doesn't it? But then, God specialises in the impossible and it happens just as Elijah said, the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry.

When everything you've tried hasn't worked, when you're at the end of your tether, when you're about to have your last meal and lay down to die, remember this: God is the God who specialises in the impossible. If you believe he can help you in any situation, ask him and see what he does to help you. Jesus said "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20). We just need to be prepared to tell him we can't do it ourselves and ask for his help - things may not work out in the way we thought they would (or wanted them to), but God knows what will help us move on and grow as a disciple of Jesus.