

## WELCOME

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## CHILDREN

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### 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013 Third Sunday of Advent

#### Hymns for Today

631, 629, 128, 444, 634,

AOE

## TODAY

**Katete Advent Collection** During Sundays in Advent there will be a retiring collection for St Francis Hospital, Katete. For more information on the work of the hospital go to [www.saintfranchishospital.net](http://www.saintfranchishospital.net)

**Family Service** Today's 11.15 am service will be the last one of 2013. The service will resume again on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

#### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE TODAY AT 4.30 PM

## THIS WEEK

**Ploughmen's Lunches** This Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 12.30 pm in the Parish Room.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**Christmas Services** Details of all Christmas Services are now available on a separate leaflet - please ask a sidesperson.

**St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival 2013**  
**Angels from the Realms of Glory** A big thank you to all those who have volunteered to help in any way during the festival. We couldn't do it without you. However we have another two days next week when we will need your help - mince pies, biscuits and sweets. Try escaping from the Christmas chaos at home to the calm of the Christmas tree lit church for an hour. It is very therapeutic! A very Happy Christmas from Phil, Steve and Chris

**Looking forward to Epiphany at St Mary's:** "The Dawn from on High" is a

series of events that will take place during the season of Epiphany and will be facilitated by the Season's House Group.

Please note the dates and watch for further publicity. **Round-the-world Epiphany Tea and Taize Service** on January 12th, two evenings of **Epiphany and the Arts** on January 14th & 28th, two **Creative Quiet Days** for pre-school and school mums on Jan 15th & 22nd.

## BITS AND PIECES

### Announcement from The Rt. Rev'd Tim Dakin, Bishop of Winchester:

Dear Friends, It is with great pleasure, albeit tinged with personal sadness, that I can confirm Peter Hancock will be leaving us as Bishop of Basingstoke to become the next Bishop of Bath and Wells. Since joining us from Portsmouth in 2010, Peter has made an enormous contribution to the life of this Diocese. I for one will miss his wise counsel and input on Bishop's Staff and I know that he has also made a great many friends across Winchester's parishes.

I am sure that you all, like me, will wish both Peter and Jane the very best as they make the move to Somerset next year. We will hold them in our prayers for the fresh challenges that lie ahead. *Yours in Christ, +Tim*

**Christmas Bazaar** At the time of writing the running total is **just over £956** – so a big "thank you" to everyone involved in making this a happy, warm (and profitable) event. You all gave so freely of your time, energy and donations, both of money and items for sale. Once again – thanks. *Fay*

**2014 Parish Pilgrimage** Fr Alec will lead a short pilgrimage to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham next APRIL 22nd - APRIL 24th (ie 2 nights away). We will travel by private cars and will be staying in the Anglican Hostel on a half board basis. The cost will be about £100

per person. Places are limited; there are some twin and some single rooms. If you would like to put your name down or find out more please speak to Penny Potter. (or look on the web at [www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk](http://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk))

**Confirmation** If you (young or old) would like to be confirmed, or just discuss the possibility, please speak to Fr Alec. Classes will begin during Lent, with a view to a confirmation service being held in June.

**Christmas Carols CD** Are you looking for a fresh CD of Christmas carols this season? "**When He is King**" is a brand new recording by the Hild Bede College Chapel Choir at Durham University. It features one of our congregation - Madeleine Sakakini and is available for £10 from the Durham University Shop. <http://shop.dur.ac.uk> or by phoning 0191 334 9357.

**Food Bank News** We have been asked by the Foodbank if we could suspend donations to them until further notice. They have just taken delivery of **3 and a half tonnes of food** from a Tesco collection, as well as other large seasonal donations. To put it all in context, the Food bank **supplies 2 tonnes of food per month** to clients. During their first year of operation, the bank **has served 2000 clients**. From Jane and David Whiter, Geoff and myself and Fr Alec, a big thank you all for your loyal and sustained support during the year. I will let you know when donations are needed again. *Myrna*

**Christmas Cards** You are encouraged again this Christmas **not** to bring individual Christmas cards to church. A Christmas message board is now up so that your Christmas greetings can go to the whole church not just the people you know, with the suggestion that the money saved on cards be donated to St Francis' Hospital, Katete: please mark any donations to 'St Francis' Hospital'

**During the service a collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you miss this collection, gifts can be placed in the wall pillar. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the pews. DeoGratias** Registered Charity No. 1136606

**PARISH CONTACTS:** Vicar - The Rev'd Alexander Battey 354707 [vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

**Churchwardens** - Mrs Myrna Lewis 355157, Mr Ian Kershaw 355500

**Parish Administrator & Parish Room Bookings** - Mrs Debbie Filer 07541 698235 [admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

**Friends of St Mary's** (Enquiries to 358533)

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**Wanted : Brass Cleaners.** One brass cleaner who cleans the brass in January and March has had to give up due to ill health. Can anyone volunteer to take on one of these months please? Contact either Ian Kershaw (355500 ) or Pat Barnes (322150). Thank you.

**Barn Dance** The Social Group are organising a Barn Dance (for Burns Night) on Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> January at Lychpit Hall (7-10pm). Tickets are available from Janet Jackson (tel. 468351) at £7.50 each.

## FROM FR ALEC

John the Baptist reminds us that, as we look for the coming of Christ with eager longing, we should take care to examine our own expectations. God meets us and speaks to us in unexpected ways.

### ***Please pray for:***

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan. our bishops; especially for bishop Peter preparing for his new appointment.
- Those who speak out against evil and injustice.
- The coming of God' s kingdom.
- The growth and development of St Mary's.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Liz Gray; Pat and David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Sylvia Dark; Geoffrey Armstead, Margaret Lomax, Jill Basing, Enid Saint, Des & Joyce Atkin; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Roy Butlin and for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

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