

## WELCOME

All Christians who would normally do so are invited to receive communion. If you wish not to receive, please come forward for a blessing. You are warmly invited to



## CHILDREN

Children are very welcome at St Mary's. Junior Church takes place in the Parish Room during the Sung Eucharist. There is a children's corner

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014**

### Candlemas

*(The Presentation of Christ)*

### Hymns for Today

714, 486, 35, 375, 701, 605

## TODAY

**The Traidcraft Stall** will be available in the Parish Room after the 9.30 am service.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**Education Sunday** will be celebrated here next Sunday Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at **10am**. This will be an All-age service with contributions from the local schools.

**Lent Course** Advance notice that this year, as a parish, we will be following the Diocesan Lent Course, which Bishop Tim has commissioned specially to explore the priorities set at the Conference last year. Meetings will be on Thursday evenings during Lent, and I hope you can all find time to attend as we walk together with Christ the transforming journey of Lent. *Fr Alec*.

**Pancake Fun!** The Social Group are planning a Pancake tossing event on Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3.30 - 5pm. in the Parish Room. Plan to be there! We need supporters, participants and judges. Prizes to be won. There will be refreshments (including Pancakes!).

## BITS AND PIECES

**The Seasons House Group** will meet on Thursdays February 13 & 27 at 2 Priory Gardens from 7:30 till 9:30. Please contact Steve or Gill for further information.

Thank you to all who helped St Mary's celebration of Epiphany to go so well. It was encouraging to have such a level of participation in the Epiphany and the Arts Evenings in the form of poems, Holden Evening Prayer, cakes and kind support. Thank you also those who were involved in the Reflective Quiet Day.

**Advent Collection – St Francis' Hospital, Katete** A cheque totalling £251.04 was sent off to St Francis' Hospital following the Advent collections. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

**Monday Discussion Group:** The next meeting will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 1.45 pm in the Parish Room. We will read and discuss the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, and look at the period between the Old and New Testaments. Everyone welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

**Holy Dusters Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 10am – 12 noon** Our annual church cleaning session, an extra time for cleaning areas and pieces within the church not routinely dusted, polished or washed will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. If you have a couple of hours to spare, do come and join us, no special skills required, bring your favourite cloths or dusters, wear old clothes, sensible shoes, coffee and biscuits will be provided. *The Churchwardens*

**Sylvia Dark** All her friends will be pleased to learn that she is home from hospital

**Sunday Collection** If anyone who was at the 9.30 am service recently has found half a £5 note in their wallet, please can you bring it to church so that we can join it up with the half which was in the collection.

**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.

**Learning Mentors at St Mary's Junior School** Do you have some spare time during the school day? Could you help children to improve their basic skills in either reading or maths?

If the answer is yes, please contact the school office on 465092 or pop into school for more information. We are particularly interested in having more male mentors in school to promote reading for pleasure amongst boys. Please note that all volunteers will require a DBS (formally CRB) clearance.

## FROM FR ALEC

That Jesus is a 'light to lighten the gentiles' is a truth that has pervaded the whole Epiphany Season. The festival of Candlemas that we celebrate today, in which we remember the Presentation of Christ, and the response of Simeon and Anna, is at once a culmination

**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

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

**Parish Administrator & Parish Room Bookings** - Mrs Debbie Filer 07541 698235 admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

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

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of the season, and a reminder of what lies ahead. Within Simeon's prophecy lies the reminder that the light which we now welcome and adore casts a shadow, and it is the shadow of the cross.

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

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan. our bishops; especially for bishop Peter preparing for his new appointment.
- The light of Christ to be shed on all those who live in ignorance of his love.
- All parents, children, and families.
- The elderly, especially those living alone.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Pat and David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Sylvia Dark; Margaret Lomax, Des & Joyce Atkin; Canon Simon Wilkinson; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; and for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

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