

## 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 coffee afterwards.



## 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 in Church for supervised pre-school children.

9<sup>th</sup> February 2014

### Fourth Sunday Before Lent & Education Sunday

#### Hymns for Today

See sheet

## TODAY

**Welcome** Today we particularly welcome the children, staff and governors of St Mary's Junior & Old Basing Infants School as we celebrate Education Sunday.

## THIS WEEK

**Monday Discussion Group:** The next meeting takes place tomorrow, 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)*

**Pram Service** This Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15 pm. This service is a gentle introduction to Christian worship for pre-school children.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**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.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage April 22nd - 24th** One place has unexpectedly become available - if you are interested please speak to Penny Potter as soon as possible [01256 333249]

**The Discussion Group** will meet on Thursday Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. The topic is "Forgiveness", 7.30 pm for 8 pm in the Parish Room as usual. All are welcome. The group will not meet during Lent.

**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*

**Parking in the churchyard.** The Vicar and PCC have been advised by our tree surgeon that it is an extremely dangerous practice to park any where under the Holm Oak. He has also advised that continuous parking is damaging the roots of the Holm Oak as some of these are near the ground surface. We would like to remind everyone that the "hammer head" is a personnel dropping off area only, turning circle, or 2 spaces only for contractors or "mobility impaired" confined to the tarmac area only.  
*Churchwardens*

**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.

**St Mary's Flower Arrangers' Coffee Morning** will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 10 am to which all are welcome.

**RSCM Conductor's Workshop** On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the church choir will be hosting a RSCM workshop for young and aspiring choir conductors. As the new conductors are

put through their paces, the choir will do their best to respond, and do justice to, various pieces of choral music and psalms, under their leadership and tuition. Several years ago, the choir "volunteered" to do a similar thing with one conductor, now there are potentially 11 or 12 conductors coming.  
*Jo and Myrna*

**Prayers for the General Synod** The General Synod are to meet for three days next week (10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Feb). During this time the Archbishops of Canterbury and York would like to encourage people throughout the Dioceses to pray for the work and life of the General Synod.

**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 (formerly CRB) clearance.

## FROM FR ALEC

Jesus calls his followers to be Salt and Light for the world. In other words to be those who bring out the flavour of life- who call to attention those things overlooked by others.

This reminds us that a Christian life is more than behaving well or keeping out of trouble, but involves bringing out the best in all that God has given us.

It is an important message on Education Sunday, because today we celebrate and pray for students, pupils and teachers, praying that they can make the best of all the gifts with which they have been entrusted.

### Please pray for:

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan, our bishops; especially for bishop Peter preparing for his new appointment.
- That we may serve others with the gifts we have been given.
- All parents, children, and families.
- The elderly, especially those living alone.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley; 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;

**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