

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

8th December 2013 Second Sunday of Advent

Hymns for Today

259, 480, 420, 447, 674,

250

TODAY

Katete Advent Collection During Sundays in Advent there will be a retiring collection for St Francis Hospital, Katete. It would be appreciated if collection boxes could be returned to church by the end of December. For more information on the work of the hospital go to www.saintfrancishospital.net

THIS WEEK

Pram Service This Thursday 12th Dec. at 2.15 pm. with the theme this month "Looking Forward". This service is a gentle introduction to Christian worship for pre-school children.

Naomi House "Light Up a Life Service" St Mary's looks forward once again to hosting this year's service this Thursday 12th Dec. at 7pm. All welcome.

LOOKING FORWARD

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

Christmas Tree Festival – Angels from the Realms of Glory, 14th/15th: 21st/22nd December. Only a week to go. Please sign up on the boards in the lobby if you can help. We need

stewards in the church, one hour sessions, and preferably two people on duty each time, and contributions for Vena's Sweetie and Biscuit Stall. We also need mince pies to compliment Phil's mulled wine. And if you have a little time, we would like little cakes and biscuits to go with tea and coffee. We cannot do it without your help.

Remember too, the combined School Choirs will be singing at 2.00 on Saturday 14th and the glorious Basing Buskers will be playing during Sunday December 15th. On Sunday 22nd Father Alec will have a children's story time at 2.00 in the Children's Corner (grown-ups can come too). We have a glorious Craft fair booked, and lots and lots of trees to twinkle through the December gloom. (We can take a few more). Tell your family, tell your friends, tell everybody.

Any queries: chris8young@hotmail.co.uk or 356973

BITS AND PIECES

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*

Confirmation If you (young or old) would like to be confirmed, or just discuss the possibility, please speak to Fr Alec. It is hoped to begin classes during Lent, with a view to a confirmation service being held in the summer.

Family Service The last 11.15 am service of 2013 will be on Sunday 15th December. The service will resume again in the New Year on Sunday 12th January.

Old Basing Methodist Christmas Coffee and Gift Sale All are invited to come along on Friday next, December 13th from 10.30am until 12noon. Please come and join us.

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.

Pat Sacree would like to thank all her friends at St Mary's for the cards and flowers she received for her 90th birthday. She says she was overwhelmed with the expressions love and good wishes from everyone.

Church Christmas Card 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. It is suggested that the money saved on cards should go to St Francis' Hospital, Katete: please mark any donations to 'St Francis' Hospital'

Learning Mentors at St Mary's Junior School Do you have some spare time during the school day? Could you help

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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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).

FROM FR ALEC

As we turn our thoughts this Advent to Repentance, it is important to remember that, like Advent itself, repentance is forward-, not backward-looking. It involves not so much self-accusation for past wrongs, but a careful correction to our lives, so that they may the more clearly reflect Christ's coming Kingdom.

Please pray for:

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan. our bishops;
- Those struggling with poverty and debt.
- The coming of God's kingdom.
- The growth and development of St Mary's.
- Penelope Bickley being baptised today;
- 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; Emma Rawlins; Charlie Goddard; Susan Briggs; for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

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