

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.

19th November 2017 Second Sunday Before Advent

Hymns:

606, 225, 412, 533, 194, 238

TODAY

Our November Charity is Veterans Aid. Please see details on the board in the foyer and note that gift aid envelopes are available.

Holy Baptisms At 2 pm Misty Phelps & Isabelle Smith are to be baptised. All are welcome at this service

THIS WEEK

Rev'd Sarah is away on silent retreat now. Back Wed 29th November.

LOOKING FORWARD

Contemplative Advent: all welcome to these 4 evenings of short creative worship offering a chance for reflection through music, image, and word. Led by St Mary's *Living Word* group. 8pm in the Bolton Chapel, Mondays 27th Nov, 4th, 11th & 18th Dec. On 4th Dec please bring a favourite book with a card inserted within it mentioning why you like the book and what it is about: all books will be displayed that evening for browsing.

Special All Age Festival Worship: Sunday 10th Dec at 10am including Joy to the World in Swahili and an opening of the Advent Shed. Followed by **Advent Messy Church** activities 11am, simple **Parish Messy Lunch** 12 noon. Coffee after 10 am service to linger and watch or join in crafts with children. All ages invited to join for lunch together – please sign-up in church porch. If you could make some Star Biscuits for 'pudding', please sign-up too.

Big Turkey Community Christmas lunch Sat 30th December. This year in the warmer and larger OB

Village Hall which we hope to make truly festive (see Alan Jones with any decoration donations). Please spread the word and invite all you know who might welcome a sumptuous free Christmas lunch together. For all ages, children, families, retired, single, all. Please sign-up in porch if you would like to join in helping &/or eating. Volunteers hugely welcome! Wonderful if we can all gather to celebrate the great Christmas feast together with all included in our community. New this year – big screen showing of film *White Christmas* at c.2.30pm.

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival 9th & 10th December: Trees: Book

your place! Anyone can enter a tree; organisation, family or individuals. **Stalls:** Please can you bake for the Cake stall, provide a raffle prize or find or make super items for the Christmas stall? **Stewarding:** Can you spare 1 or 2 hrs to steward please? Sign-up sheets in lobby. **Book stall:** novels wanted, fiction only please. Please leave books in choir vestry or porch of 68 The Street. Let's make this the most joyful Christmas Tree Festival yet! **Thank you, Joy to the World Team.**

Carol Singing around the streets of Old Basing - Come and Sing! Spread the word and join the merry carol singing in aid of Basingstoke homelessness charity *First Point*. All ages & voices welcome. Listen out for us, join us, or leave us, at any of our 4 lingering points this year: 5pm start St Mary's porch; 5.45/6pm at Co-op; 6.30pm at The Crown; 7pm at The Bolton Arms (with refreshments). See poster.

BITS AND PIECES

The Basing Singers invite you to "**Be Our Guest**" at a **Christmas Concert** in the Old Basing Village Hall 7.30 Saturday 9 Dec. Concert will feature top 10 hits from Christmas films, musicals and the charts. Basing Singers will be joined by Blue Horizon Handbell Ringers. Tickets £7/£1 U16 on door or 850415.

Profits donated to Hampshire Search and Rescue. Please come and join us.

Katakala Advent Shed Activity and Christmas Tree: we are seeking loads of clear plastic drinks bottles, any size but not milk bottles. Please leave in box in porch. Many thanks Rosey.

All welcome to the Old Basing Methodist Church's Christmas Coffee Break, Friday 8th Dec, 10.30 am - noon.

New Rotas It would be appreciated if you could let me know your availability for January, February and March. Thank you. *Debbie Filer*

From Fr Alec

In today's parable, we are encouraged to make the most of the capital we have been given. This is a challenge not only to use our talents wisely and generously, but to accept them in the first place for what they are. Before we can give ourselves as a gift to others, we must recognize ourselves as a gift worth giving. This is an act of true faith: self-knowledge and self-value.

Please pray for

- The grace to use our gifts wisely
- Courage to serve others generously.
- A society that values all people regardless of race, gender or background.
- Our global partnership friends in Katakala & forthcoming parish trip;
- Those experiencing poverty, hunger and homelessness;
- All struggling with depression, grief, illness, isolation, relationship breakdowns, addiction;
- Misty Phelps & Isabelle Smith being baptised today;
- Residents of Basingfield Court & Oakfields.
- All regions where there is famine, conflict, abuse, suffering: Myanmar, East Africa, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, Yemen
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Lisa Allen, Elan Bansal; Jackie Deadman; Jean Schluter; Betty & Peter Thorn, Esther Wong; Inge Bowman; Dudley Clark and all in sorrow or pain.
- All those who have died recently: Joy Evans; and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, and those who grieve for them.

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. Deo Gratias. Registered Charity No. 1136606

PARISH CONTACTS: Vicar - The Rev'd Alexander Battey 354707 vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

Assistant Curate – The Rev'd Sarah Lloyd 816122 sarah@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

Churchwardens - Mrs Tricia Renwick 326155, Mr Ian Kershaw 355500

Home Communion Enquiries – please contact Rev'd Sarah in the first instance

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

Friends of St Mary's (Enquiries to 358533) **St Mary's Church Website Address:** www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk