

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.

16th March 2014

Second Sunday of Lent

Hymns for Today

689, 84, 412, 484, 487, 695

TODAY

Thank You to Reverend Michael Kenning who has kindly agreed to play the organ for us today at the 9.30 am service.

Lent Charity During Sundays in Lent there will be a retiring collection for the charity Veterans Aid. For more information on the work of the organisation please go to <http://www.veterans-aid.net/about-us/>

THIS WEEK

Monday Discussion Group:

During Lent we will meet on five consecutive Mondays at 1.45 pm, this Monday in the Bolton Chapel. We will be using the US Lent study course for 2014 – 'A heart for mission.' For further information if you wish to join our group please speak to me. *Ann Price (320388)*

Ploughmen's Lunches

This Thursday 20th March at 12.30 pm in the Parish Room. All welcome.

The Diocesan Lent Course

continues this Thursday evening at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room and will continue on Thursday evenings during Lent. If you missed the first couple of sessions it is not too late to come along.

LOOKING FORWARD

Mothering Sunday We look forward to welcoming the uniformed organisations of the Parish to our Mothering Sunday service on 30th March. **This service will be at the later time of 10.00 am, although please note that the clocks do go forward that weekend!**

Holy Week & Easter Details of Holy Week & Easter services are available on a separate flyer in the North Aisle.

BITS AND PIECES

Opportunities for Volunteering

If you, or anyone you know, would feel able to join the team cleaning the Parish Room, please speak to one of the Church Wardens.

Family Service

The last Family Service before the Easter break will be on Sunday 23rd March at 11.15 am. The service will resume on Sunday 4th May.

Posters for St Mary's Notice

Boards - in order to allow adequate space for publicity about services during Holy Week and Easter, please could all posters be **A5** in dimension from March 20 till April 20. Any questions please contact Gill Sakakini.

Holy Dusters Thank You

A big thank you for everyone one gave their time to making St Mary's even more spick and span in preparation for Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

FROM FR ALEC

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night. This suggests that he was coming furtively- unwilling to be seen by others speaking to Jesus. Not only this, but the darkness, in a way, mirrors his own situation: He is groping through the darkness towards a faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus response to him is correspondingly obscure. We, reading retrospectively, can see and understand Jesus' references to Baptism, and a foreshadowing of his being 'lifted up' on the cross, but this understanding all lay ahead for Nicodemus.

He comes thinking that he knows who Jesus is: 'a teacher who has come from God'. He is left with the news that 'God so loved the world that he sent his only Son.'

Please pray for:

- renewal in faith and love this Lent.
- Tim, Peter & Jonathan, our bishops; especially for bishop Peter preparing for his new appointment.
- For the people and Churches of Ukraine.
- Those driven from their homes and livelihoods by flooding, especially those in Buckskin.
- The persecuted church in the Middle East.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley; Pat and David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Sylvia Dark; Margaret Lomax, Joyce Atkin; Bea Preston; 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. Deo Gratias Registered Charity No. 1136606

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