

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.

6th December 2015 Second Sunday of Advent

Hymns

263, 406, 656, 447, 949, 282

TODAY

Advent Collection On Sundays during Advent there will be a retiring collection for St Francis Hospital, Katete. For more information on the work of the hospital go to www.saintfrancishospital.net

The Traidcraft Stall will be available in the Parish Room after today's 9.30 am service.

THIS WEEK

Contemplative Advent Services Come and rest in gentle, candle-lit contemplative services of music, reflection, poetry, peace and prayer. Monday evenings in Advent, 8-8.45pm, Bolton Chapel. All welcome. If you need a lift please contact Sarah.

At Prayers & Bears this Thursday 10th December (2pm) we shall be putting together our Crib for the Crib Festival.

Crib Festival 2015 (11-13 December) Thank you for the offers of help for this event which is well underway. Please indicate on the sheets in the lobby whether you can contribute cakes, small cakes and sweets, quality items of bric-a-brac, books, and raffle prizes. Perhaps you would prefer to offer your time, in which case please see Gill about stewarding for a short period of time. If you are thinking of contributing a nativity scene please submit forms and payments directly to Gill or Steve Sakakini. Also please contact Gill or Rowena with any musical, poetic or dramatic contribution to the evening on Friday 11th which kicks off the Festival. By way of rounding it all up on Sunday 13th we will have community carol singing round the village at 5pm. **Please lend your support to this Festival weekend and take posters out and about!** Gill Sakakini 811956

Crib Festival – Cakes: Thank you, in anticipation, to those of you who will be providing cakes for sale over the weekend. It would be extremely helpful if you could let me have them by Friday 11th December –

phone 476863 to arrange delivery – or bring them to the Parish Room by 9.00 am latest on Saturday 12th December. Fay

Poetry, Prose & Drama Evening - Friday 11th December at 7:30 pm Tickets are now on sale for this event which begins our Crib Festival weekend. There is still space for some more items for this evening (all ages) which promises to be entertaining and will include a performance of the prize winning poem from St Mary's Junior School. Please see Steve Sakakini or Rowena to buy tickets (£5 including an interval glass of wine or soft drink) and to be involved.

LOOKING FORWARD

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

31st January 2016, 5pm

Anniversary Evensong to honour Paul Wright's
40 years service to St Mary's as organist

BITS AND PIECES



Coffee Catch Up at the Crib Festival! The Men's Breakfast & Coffee Catch Up teams will be providing refreshments at the Crib Festival – donations of cakes/mince pies to serve over the weekend would be most appreciated – please sign up on the separate sign-up sheet in the lobby.

Family Service Today is the last Family Service of 2015. The service will resume on 10th January.

Basingstoke Food Bank At this time of year we particularly remember the Food Bank who have asked if people would mind donating **Advent Calendars** as they are trying to issue these to all families with children. The Food Bank are also in urgent need of **male & female deodorant and toilet rolls**, although any donations are always gratefully received. Thank you.

Friends of St Mary's Murder Mystery Thank you to everyone involved in last weekend's Murder Mystery & Fine Dining Evening. The total sum raised was £2,667.15!

St Mary's Pocket Diaries We shall shortly have some 2016 pocket diaries for sale (£1).

Eastertide Pilgrimage 2016. Fr. Alec is again leading a group to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, from **Tuesday April 12th to Thursday April 14th** (ie. 2 nights, cost ca £102 for two nights half board, i.e. bed, breakfast and evening meal). Please let me, Penny Potter, know as soon as possible if you wish to join this group as I shall make a preliminary booking before Christmas. (tel. 333249, or potterpenny@tiscali.co.uk) . We shall be going in cars - cost of a minibus is prohibitive!

Church Christmas Card Our usual community card is now up and ready in the North Aisle. Please write your greetings on the board - and please do consider passing any savings to the Advent Collection for St Francis Hospital Katete. *Thank you!*

Confirmation If you (young or old) would like to be confirmed, or just discuss the possibility, please speak to Fr Alec. A confirmation service will take place at Pentecost/Whitsun - Sunday 15th May, 6.30pm in Winchester Cathedral where our candidates will be confirmed by Bishop David.

Old Basing Methodist Coffee Break All invited on Fri 12th Dec 10.30 am – 12 noon.

From Fr Alec

In our gospel today, we are reminded of Isaiah's call to 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' This reminds us that, though the Kingdom is God's alone, we have the opportunity and the obligation to make the world ready for what is to come.

Please pray for

- For the justice, mercy and peace of God's Kingdom to break in to our hostile world.
- For refugees, and all those seeking asylum.
- Those in war zones and people living in suffering, particularly in Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, Libya and Iraq.
- Those working for peace and reconciliation.
- All those who have personal battles against addiction and depression.
- Our Bishops Tim, David and Jonathan.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley; Elan Bansal; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Jackie Deadman; Jean Schluter; Clifford & Christopher Browne; Des Atkin; Violet Philips, Emily Fisk; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; David Sacree; all 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

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