

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.

13th December 2015 Third Sunday of Advent

Hymns

527, 205, 655, 108, 372, 259

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

Charity Carol Singing around the Village. Our Crib Festival will round off at 5pm this evening with Carols around the village. We will be collecting funds for May Place.

THIS WEEK

Monday Discussion Group: We will meet tomorrow (14th) at 1.45 pm in the Parish Room. Please bring along your favourite carol to share with the group. All are welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

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.

Carols at Basingfield Court.

Wednesday 2pm. Come and spread some cheer with the elderly residents.

Ploughmen's Lunches

this Thursday 17th December at 12.30 pm in the ParishRoom. All welcome.

LOOKING FORWARD

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

Christingle Our Christingle service this year will be at 4pm on Sunday 3rd January

in aid of the Children's Society.

Christingle Preparation If you're free and would like to help prepare the Christingle oranges on Saturday 2nd January please get in touch with Debbie Filer.

31st January 2016, 5pm

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

BITS AND PIECES

Family Service The Family Service will resume on 10th January.

Basingstoke Food Bank At this time of year we particularly remember the Food Bank which is 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 the Friends' recent 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).

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER AT 5.00 PM.

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.

From Fr Alec

John the Baptist today issues a stirring call to repentance as we travel deeper into Advent. This call to change resonates deeply with the season's promise of a transformed Creation – A New Heaven and a New Earth.

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; Rowena Hackett; 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

Assistant Curates – The Rev'd Rachel Hartland 07717 942669 rachel@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk,

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