

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.

31st January 2016 Candlemas

Hymns

105, 690, 157, 601, 486, 187

TODAY

Anniversary Evensong All are invited this evening at 5pm to honour our organist, Paul Wright's 40 years service to St Mary's as organist. To be followed by light refreshments.

THIS WEEK

Clergy Availability Fr Alec is on retreat this week and will be back in the Parish on Saturday.

Men's Breakfast This Saturday 6th February at 8.45 am in the Parish Room.

LOOKING FORWARD

Ecumenical Lent Course 2016 – This will take place on Tuesday evenings during Lent at the Methodist Chapel starting at 7.30 pm. We shall be using the book *'The Joy of the Gospel'* by Paula Gooder. Copies of the book are available from Fr Alec (donations welcome).

Ash Wednesday Eucharists There will be a Morning service at St Mary's Junior School at 10 am to which everyone is welcome and also an Evening service starting at 7.30 pm. Both services include the imposition of ash.

BITS AND PIECES

Pancake Races! Come and join in the fun and enjoy freshly cooked pancakes with your choice of filling! Come to cheer or take part! Everyone welcome, Sunday 7th February at 3pm in the Parish Room.

Monday Discussion Group: As is our custom we will meet on five Mondays for Lent. The first one will be 8th February

followed by 22nd and 29th February and 7th and 14th March. All meetings will commence at 1.45 pm and, apart from 7th March (when the venue will be the Bolton Chapel), will be held in the Parish Room. The theme will be 'Women of the Old Testament'. Everyone welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

Lent Healing Services will return this year on Thursday evenings at 7.30 in the Bolton chapel. An opportunity for quiet meditation and prayer for our own healing and that of others.

Lent Charity During Lent we will collect again for the work of **Veterans Aid**.

The Children's Society Thank you to everyone who has a collection box! They have all been emptied and counted and together over the year of 2015 you have generously collected a total of £612. Jacky Fox has the empty boxes ready for you and will be in the Parish Room after the 9.30 service. If you haven't got a box and feel you could contribute in this way, please speak to Jacky. *Rosemary Kershaw*

Seasons House Group If you would like to get to know people at St Mary's better and want an opportunity to study the Bible with them, why not come to this informal gathering over tea at the home of the Sakakini's. This Season's House Group offers a warm, welcoming environment in which to ask questions and explore faith and life together. For further information please call Gill or Steve on 811956 or come to 2 Priory Gardens, Old Basing from 5:30 - 7:30 on any of the following Sundays: Feb 7 and 21, March 13 and 20.

The Basingstoke Foodbank are short of a few items, in particular: dried milk powder, 1L long-life milk and fruit juice, coffee, crackers/crispbreads, pasta/cooking sauce jars, instant potato mash. Thank you.

2015 Palm Crosses Please return your palm crosses from last year so they can be burned to provide ash for the Ash Wednesday services on Feb 10th. Please place your crosses in the basket provided on the table by the church door by no later than Sunday 7th Feb. *Thank you!*

Confirmation Classes will begin soon. If you are seeking preparation for confirmation this year, please speak to Fr Alec, Sarah or Rachel now.

Flower Arrangers Coffee Morning: St Mary's Flower Arrangers will be holding their annual Coffee Morning on **Saturday 13th February** in the Parish Room from 10.00 to 11.30 am to which all are invited. There will be a Bring and Buy stall, a Raffle and the 2016/7 rotas will be available. ALL WELCOME.

From Fr Alec

At Candlemas we reach the tipping point of the year between Christmas and Easter. At the Presentation in the Temple Simeon foresees the sacrifice of the cross and the salvation that flows from it. We too are invited to fix our eyes on the Light of the World.

Please pray for

- grace to live sacrificially for others in the light of Christ.
- Those living in areas of conflict, particularly in the Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, Libya and Iraq, and all refugees and those seeking asylum.
- those approaching baptism and confirmation.
- 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; Emily Fisk; Marg; Valerie & David Buckland; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Floss Challis; Eric Kirby; and 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 07717942669 rachel@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk,

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