

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.

14th February 2016 First Sunday of Lent

Hymns

379, 368, 190, 497, 374, 503

TODAY

Lent Charity On Sundays during Lent there will be a retiring collection for **Veterans Aid**. If you would like to gift aid a donation, please use one of the gift aid envelopes provided or download a Gift Aid form from the Veterans Aid website: www.veterans-aid.net. Please leave the form and your donation in an envelope and this will be forwarded on your behalf.

THIS WEEK

Ecumenical Lent Course 2016 – This begins this Tuesday and 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.

Ploughmen's Lunches this Thursday 18th February at 12.30 pm in the Parish Room. All welcome.

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

LOOKING FORWARD

Mothering Sunday We look forward to welcoming the uniformed organisations of the Parish to our Mothering Sunday service on 6th March. **This service will be at the later time of 10.00 am.**

BITS AND PIECES

Installation of New Archdeacon The Reverend Canon Richard Brand will be Collated as Archdeacon of Winchester on Sunday 21st February 2016 at 3.30 p.m. during Evensong in Winchester Cathedral. All are welcome.

Confirmation support: Please hold in your prayers James, Fiona and Zenden, as they

attend confirmation classes together, and prepare for confirmation at Pentecost.

St Mary's Pastoral Visitors: please join our short course of 4 training sessions if you are already, or would like to consider starting, pastoral visiting to somebody who may be going through a time of isolation, bereavement, or other struggles. Please chat to Sarah to book/for more details. Also see notice board.

Women's World Day of Prayer takes place this year on Friday 4th March at 10.30 am at the Methodist Chapel, where the speaker will be Rev'd Alison Parker. All welcome. Refreshments will follow the service.

Thank You! How can I even begin to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all for the wonderful 40th Anniversary Celebration you gave me recently? You certainly pulled out all the stops! I was (and still am!) deeply moved and completely overwhelmed by the tide of warmth and generosity that flooded the church. The presence of so many people from near and far, the fantastic singing, Father Alec's kind words, the lavish refreshments, the lovely cards and incredibly generous gifts all combined to make it a truly unforgettable occasion. Hopelessly inadequate though it sounds, **'Thank-you'** again! *Paul Wright*

A big **"thank you"** to everyone who helped with refreshments for the Celebratory Evensong service. From donors and servers of food and drinks, the "clearing up" party and all other help and support offered and provided. *Myrna Lewis*

News from Coffee Catch Up

Times Going forward from tomorrow Coffee Catch Up will be opening up at the slightly later time of **9am** but will be open to **12 noon**. **Can you help occasionally?** Plans are underway to open Coffee Catch Up on a Friday afternoon as well as a Monday morning and so we are looking for volunteers to join the team – if you're interested in helping, perhaps on an occasional basis, please do get in touch with Debbie Filer. **Charity Morning** On Monday 21st March all proceeds will be donated to **Macmillan Cancer Support**.

Monday Discussion Group: As is our custom we will meet on five Mondays for Lent. The next meeting will be on 22nd February, with subsequent meetings on 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)*

The Basingstoke Foodbank is short of a few items, in particular 1L long-life milk and fruit juice. Thank you.

From Rev'd Sarah:

Lent offers us a chance to find space to breathe; to interrupt entrenched patterns of our daily life and to de-clutter. As we follow Christ into our wilderness spaces, new patterns of listening and prayer spotlight our attention more deeply on God, amplifying for us the closeness of God in our lives, preparing us to live life in all its fullness as Easter people.

Please pray for

- Our journey through Lent to be a time of blessing, where we find space to breathe, space to know afresh the closeness of God in each of our lives;
- An end to suffering for the people of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Holy Land., and many other places of conflict in our world;
- Leaders and negotiators seeking peace and reconciliation; for them to be guided in wisdom and compassion;
- Those experiencing homelessness close to our doors; for the work of the You Trust, Camrose Centre, May Place and street outreach;
- Ross Smith O'Neill and Natasha Stone preparing for their marriage on Saturday;
- 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; Eric Kirby; Zena Tanner; Rose Taylor; 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 0771 7942669 rachel@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk,

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