

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.

8th October 2017 Harvest Festival

Hymns:

719, Sheet, 910, 915, 900, 172

TODAY

Welcome Today we particularly welcome the uniformed organisations of the Parish as we celebrate our Harvest Festival. Thank you to all who have so generously donated items for the Basingstoke Food Bank and during the service there will be a monetary collection for our global partnership friends in Katakala, Uganda. **Thank you** to everyone who came along to the recent **Messy Harvest** - we hope you enjoy the nature collages placed around the church.

THIS WEEK

Monday Discussion Group: Our next meeting is on 9th October at 1.45pm in the Parish Room. We will conclude our study of a book by Stephen Cottrell entitled 'The Things He said' (The story of the first Easter Day). All are welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

Prayers & Bears takes place this Thursday 12th October at 2pm in the Parish Room.

LOOKING FORWARD

Advent Shed It's back again this year! There are more "shed-yuled" openings so please come and get involved. There is planning meeting on Wednesday 11 October at 7:00 pm at 2 Priory Gardens. Contact Gill or Steve for more information (811956).

Christmas Festival 2017 The PCC have agreed that this year we shall once again have a Christmas Tree Festival. Further details to follow soon but please save the date - the Festival will take place over the weekend of **December 9 - 10.**

BITS AND PIECES

Introducing St Mark There will be 3 evenings of discussion about St Mark's Gospel which will be our Gospel for the new church season starting in Advent. These evenings are Thursdays 19th October, 9th & 16th November, 7-8pm in the Parish Room.

Basinga Christmas Card Do you have a "wintry scene" image of St Mary's that we could possibly use as a Christmas Card to go out with the December edition of the Basinga giving details of Christmas services? Please get in touch with Debbie Filer.

Macmillan Coffee Morning A big thank you to all who supported the coffee morning at 68 The Street on 29th so generously. Together we made a magnificent total of £665 for the work of Macmillan Cancer Support – THANK YOU.

Coffee Catch Up Café
Every Friday, 2-4pm in Parish Room
with all proceeds in October going
to the Basingstoke Foodbank

The Children's Society Coffee Morning and Christmas Card Sale This will take place in the Parish Room next Sat 14th Oct from 10 am - noon. As well as the Christmas Cards sale other stalls will include a raffle, knitted goods, and a children's corner with fun and surprises. Good bric-a-brac is also most welcome. It would help the stall holders if we had it beforehand so please do contact me - I am happy to collect! *Rosemary Kershaw, tel. 01256 355500.* **Cakes:** There will also of course be our delicious homemade cake stall! If you are willing to provide a cake, sweets or preserves for this event, please speak to Fay Farrant in church or tel. 476863. Thank you in anticipation! For other enquiries please speak to Rosemary.

Foodbank - Temporary Volunteers Sought! The period around Harvest and the run up to Christmas is a very busy time for the Foodbank and temporary volunteers are sought to help in the process of weighing in, sorting, dating & storing the food donations at the Foodbank in Sarum Hill. As some of the work includes lifting boxes, volunteers should be able-bodied. All volunteers are asked to complete a simple safeguarding declaration form. The normal Foodbank days are Monday, Weds & Friday mornings, however if things get particularly busy there may be one or two special stock sorting days on a Saturday. You can sign up for as little or as much as you're able! If you're interested in helping please get in touch with Gary Taylor on tel. 322391.

Drama Tots Classes are now underway every Monday morning in the Parish Room.

So far we have been on a journey of discovery all about 'us' and how special we are, as well as a dinosaur adventure. Using a combination of music, movement and the power of our imaginations we explore a new theme each week. Classes are split into two age groups 18mth-3 and 3-school age. For more information please have a look at the website: www.dramatots.co.uk & find the Basingstoke tab, or find us on Facebook- Drama Tots Basingstoke. I'd love to see you there! *Kate*

From Fr Alec

At Harvest time, as we give thanks for the good things we enjoy, we take time also to remember that everything we have is not ours by right, but ours by gift. There is nothing we can offer to God which he has not first given. If this is true, then we can only stand back in awestruck wonder at the depth of his generosity, and use it to model our lives in his generous image.

Please pray for

- Our own church, that it may be a place of generosity, sharing and welcome.
- A fair distribution of the Earth's resources.
- Those in our community experiencing poverty, hunger and need.
- Farmers everywhere, especially those facing a bad harvest.
- Victims of the Mexican earthquake; the floods in South Asia and Hurricanes Harvey, Irma & Maria;
- All struggling with depression, grief, illness, isolation, relationship breakdowns, addiction
- All regions where there is famine, conflict, abuse, suffering; Myanmar, East Africa, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, Yemen
- Our global partnership friends in Katakala;
- Residents of Basingfield Court & Oakfields.
- Christopher Lambert & Nicola Shepherd preparing for their marriage on Saturday;
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Lisa Allen, Elan Bansal; Jackie Deadman; Jean Schluter; Betty & Peter Thorn, Esther Wong; Inge Bowman; Dudley Clark, Brenda Pollard, and all in sorrow or pain.
- All those who have died recently: William Halse; Kenneth Ollerhead; and those 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 Curate - The Rev'd Sarah Lloyd 816122 sarah@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

Churchwardens - Mrs Tricia Renwick 326155, Mr Ian Kershaw 355500

Home Communion Enquiries - please contact Rev'd Sarah in the first instance

Parish Administrator & Parish Room Bookings - Mrs Debbie Filer 07541 698235 admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

Friends of St Mary's (Enquiries to 358533) **St Mary's Church Website Address:** www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk