

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 September 2015

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patron.

Hymns for Today

759, 182, sheet, sheet, 729, 605

TODAY

Welcome & Parish Lunch Today we particularly welcome The Venerable Michael Harley, Archdeacon of Winchester who is preaching today as we celebrate the Festival of our Patron Saint, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thank you to all involved in arranging today's Parish Lunch (to be served in the Parish Room at 12 noon).

THIS WEEK

Coffee Catch Up launches tomorrow in the Parish Room, an opportunity for all members of the community to meet up over a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate every Monday morning from 8.30 am - 11.30 am. We look forward to seeing you there!

Monday Discussion Group: We will resume our monthly meetings on 14th September at 1.45 pm in the Parish Room. We will continue the study guide by Embrace, Study 4 is called 'Sun, moon and stars'. All are welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

Ploughmen's Lunches This Thursday 17th September at 12.30 pm in the Parish Room. All welcome.

Pilgrim Course We shall be running a new Pilgrim Course "from scratch" starting this Thursday 17th September at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room. If you haven't already tried the Pilgrim Course we would love to welcome you. We will be thinking about how we pray The Lord's Prayer and what it teaches us. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby but if you would like to know more please speak to the clergy.

For information: Memorial Service in church this week: Wednesday 16th September, 2.30 pm, service for Avril Gibberd RIP

LOOKING FORWARD

HARVEST FESTIVAL. St Mary's will celebrate Harvest on Sunday 4th October when we shall be joined by the uniformed

organisations. **Please note that this service has a later start time of 10.00 am and will be followed by a "bring and share" lunch.** It would be really helpful for catering purposes if you could sign up on the sheet in the lobby as to whether you're planning on coming along. There is a separate sheet for lunch contributions. During the service there will be a collection for the Basingstoke Foodbank which is in need of financial assistance as well as grocery gifts.

HOME GROUPS There are two home groups starting up in the next few weeks, with possibly more to follow. These will provide places of fellowship to explore more about our faith. Steve and Gill Sakakini are hosting one group at 5.30 pm on Sundays from September 27th, and then on Oct 11th, 25th, Nov 1st, 15th and 29th. Penny Potter is hosting a group on Thursday nights for six consecutive weeks from October 15th, starting at 7.30pm. Both groups will start with refreshments and will be studying The Beatitudes in this first period, using materials from the Pilgrim Course. Please let these generous hosts know if you would like to join them, or talk to the clergy for more information.

BITS AND PIECES



What IS Messy Church?

At St. Mary's we're exploring new ways of being a family orientated church, particularly something like Messy Church, which is designed to be for all ages, and is based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. We are very fortunate to have Lucy Moore, a founder of the Messy Church format, to come and speak to us. **ALL ARE WELCOME** in the Parish Room on Sat 10th Oct from 2-4pm. Please talk to Rev'd Rachel for more information.

Macmillan Coffee Morning The Men's Breakfast Group invite you come along to a Coffee Morning on Saturday 26th September from 10 am – 12 noon in the Parish Room.

An Invitation from the Churchyard Conservation Group (PIOCC) to join us for an open meeting on **Mon 28 Sept** at 8pm in the Parish Room when our old friend Geoff Sharp will be giving a talk "Viva Espana". This will feature scenery, birds, butterflies and

flowers from recent trips to various parts of Spain. Light refreshments available!

Two opportunities in the arts for young people: The Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival 2016 is an occasion where children (from 4 years old) and young people can perform in a variety of ways. I wish to encourage participation particularly in the Bible Reading Class (children's Bible stories can be chosen) and will offer coaching to those interested. It is a privilege to speak God's Word aloud and to learn how to do it in the very best way.

www.basingstokemusicandarts.org.uk

The Prayer Book Society runs a national public speaking competition for young people aged 11 – 18 in which St Mary's young people have been invited to participate. This means reading or reciting something from the Book of Common Prayer (1662) which is full of wonderful language! These Cranmer awards are prestigious and would appeal to students of English, Drama, or RE. Coaching is available. For either of these opportunities, please contact Gill Sakakini and see www.pbs.org.uk (competitions and bursaries).

From Fr Alec

As we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, we not only remember her humble acceptance of God's will, but also rejoice that we, like her, are called, as a church, to carry Christ within us, and offer the saviour as a gift to the world.

Please pray for

- The church in the world, making God's love visible;
- Refugees, and all those seeking asylum.
- Those living in suffering, particularly in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and Iraq.
- The people of St Apollo's Church in Katakala;
- Our Bishops Tim, David and Jonathan.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley; Elan Bansal; David Sacree; 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; Avril Gibberd; Sandra Reddings; and 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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