

## 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.

27<sup>th</sup> December 2015

The First Sunday of Christmas

Hymns

37, 486, 135, 634, 755, 114

## THIS WEEK

**Clergy Availability** Fr Alec is now on leave until next Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Sarah is also on leave today and both Rachel and Sarah will be on leave later this week. Please use the 'Parish Contacts' Box to discuss urgent matters with members of the team here at St Mary's.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**Christingle** Our Christingle service this year will be at 4pm next Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January in aid of the Children's Society and will be preceded by tea and refreshments at 3pm.

31<sup>st</sup> January 2016, 5pm

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

## BITS AND PIECES

**Happy Christmas** Fr Alec, Rachel & Sarah and their families would like to thank everyone for their Christmas greetings and wish you all a very blessed Christmas.

**THANK YOU** to all those who have made our Christmas Services run so smoothly as we have shared the love and light of the infant Christ this Christmas in our beautiful church.

**Family Service** The Family Service will resume on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**Basingstoke Food Bank** We have received an email from the Food Bank

thanking everyone for their generosity over the past year. In the 6 months between April & Sept 2015 the Basingstoke Food Bank fed 1,314 local people, including 464 children.

**Eastertide Pilgrimage 2016** Fr. Alec is again leading a group to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, from **Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup>** (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](mailto:potterpenny@tiscali.co.uk)) . We shall be going in cars - cost of a minibus is prohibitive!

**St Mary's Pocket Diaries** We now have some 2016 pocket diaries for sale (£1).

### Christmas Crib Festival

What a wonderful expression this event was of so many people's gifts, willing spirits, adventurous attitudes, and team work! Well done everyone! Sincere thanks go to all who planned and contributed, as well as all the punters, stall holders, coffee-servers, artists, crafts people, musicians, poets, and behind-the-scenes workers. As you reflect on the weekend please send any feedback to Rowena and Gill as we review coming Festival weekends. ([rowena.hackett@googlemail.com](mailto:rowena.hackett@googlemail.com) and [gilly.sak@gmail.com](mailto:gilly.sak@gmail.com)).

**Huge thanks** to members of the choir and others who came a carolling around the village at the end of the Crib Festival and to David & Rosie for warming sustenance. Our wassailing raised £125 for homeless charities in Basingstoke, with a further £35 raised by Dougan through his Saturday night St Mary's sleep out. Thank you.

**Cathedral Passes** A reminder that the Parish has 6 free passes to Winchester Cathedral. Please ask Penny Potter if you wish to borrow one for a visit.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm in Winchester Cathedral where our candidates will be confirmed by Bishop David.

### From Rev'd Rachel

Have you found Jesus this Christmas? As Mary and Joseph search desperately for the twelve year old Jesus we are reminded that he will be found where he has work to do: that may be through us in the lives of others, or in others' gifts into our own lives, or it may be in a place where we can engage in a questioning of God that allows space for us to hear his answers.

### Please pray for

- For the justice, mercy and peace of God's Kingdom to break in to our hostile world, through works of reconciliation.
- Those living in areas of conflict, particularly in Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, Libya and Iraq, and all refugees and those seeking asylum.
- For all people to encounter Jesus in this Christmas season.
- 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; Marg; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Michael Mullender 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](mailto:vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

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The Rev'd Sarah Lloyd 816122 [sarah@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:sarah@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)