

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.

17th January 2016 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Hymns

314, 609, 484, 245, 625, 352

TODAY

Holy Baptisms At 2pm Eli Abrehart and Snow Streeter are to be baptised. All are welcome at this service.

THIS WEEK

Ploughmen's Lunches this Thursday, 21st January at 12.30 pm in the Parish Room. All welcome.

LOOKING FORWARD

Anniversary Evensong To honour our organist, Paul Wright's 40 years service to St Mary's as organist, all are invited to a celebratory Evensong on Sunday 31st January at 5pm, to be followed by light refreshments. To mark the occasion we would like to give Paul **an anniversary gift** – if you'd like to contribute please leave any contribution in an envelope, clearly marked "Paul's Gift" in the **wall safe, in the pillar**.

BITS AND PIECES

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 takes place over 5 sessions and 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: January 24, Feb 7 and 21, March 13 and 20.

Big Turkey thanks: Thanks so much to all the 85 diner-helpers, and helper-

diners, who came to the Big Community Christmas lunch. You made it a great occasion celebrating together. Thanks to all who so generously donated too - we achieved our aim of not making any money but did virtually break-even. Hopefully Big Community Lunch 2 next Christmas, with special smaller portions on offer!

The Children's Society Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, energy, ideas and money to this Church charity last year. £566.03 was raised through the Box Holders, £831.87 at our October coffee morning and £650.25 from the sale of Christmas cards so that all in all we raised and sent £2048.15 to The Children's Society in 2015. The recent Christingle Service raised an additional £167.90. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! *Rosemary Kershaw, Parish Representative*

Heather Quilter RIP Many people will know Heather Quilter who sadly passed away recently. Heather's funeral is to take place at Basingstoke Crematorium tomorrow at 10.15 am.

Basingstoke Foodbank Thank you to all who donated to the Foodbank over the Christmas period. Due to everyone's overwhelming generosity, the Foodbank is currently overwhelmed and has put a temporary halt on receiving donations.

Eastertide Pilgrimage 2016 Fr. Alec is again leading a group to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, from **Tuesday April 12th to Thursday April 14th** (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) . We shall be going in cars - cost of a minibus is prohibitive!

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 15th May, 6.30pm in Winchester Cathedral where our candidates will be confirmed by Bishop David.

From Fr Alec

The turning of Water into wine is a deceptively familiar parable. But what is Christ really showing us here? Perhaps it is a reminder of God's boundless abundance towards his people, the limitless grace and love available from the heavenly bridegroom to his earthly bride, the Church. How can we best remember this abounding grace, so that we recognise it in our own lives and share it with others?

Please pray for

- For the boundless generosity and grace of God's Kingdom to break in to our hostile world, through works of reconciliation.
- Those living in areas of conflict, particularly in the Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, Libya and Iraq, and all refugees and those seeking asylum.
- For all married couples. Especially those to be wed in St Mary's this year.
- All places where there is scarcity, poverty, famine and meanness, that Christ's church can transform their death into plenty.
- Our Bishops Tim, David and Jonathan.
- Eli Abrahart and Snow Streeter, being baptised today;
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley; Elan Bansal; Beryl Streeter; 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; Heather Quilter; Richard Davies; Phyllis Barton; 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

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