

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.

7th February 2016
Sunday Next Before Lent

Hymns
314, 534, 29, 67, 448, 419

TODAY

Holy Baptisms At 2pm Kaiden Herald and Harrison Lyon are to be baptised. All are welcome at this service.

Pancake Races! Come and join in the fun and enjoy freshly cooked pancakes with your choice of filling! Come to cheer or take part! Everyone welcome, this afternoon at 3pm in the Parish Room.

Season's House Group meets at 2 Priory Gardens at 5:30 with pre-Shrove Tuesday crepes! We are looking at Paul's letter to the Colossians and newcomers are welcome. The group meets again on 21 Feb and March 13 and 20.

THIS WEEK

Ash Wednesday Eucharists There will be a Morning service at St Mary's Junior School at 10 am to which everyone is welcome and also an Evening service starting at 7.30 pm. Both services include the imposition of ash.

Prayers & Bears this Thursday 11th February at 2.00 pm in the Parish Room. Rev'd Rachel looks forward to sharing Prayers & Bears with you.

Flower Arrangers Coffee Morning: St Mary's Flower Arrangers will be holding their annual Coffee Morning on **Saturday 13th February** in the Parish Room from 10.00 to 11.30 am to which all are invited. There will be a Bring and Buy stall, a Raffle and the 2016/7 rotas will be available. ALL WELCOME.

LOOKING FORWARD

Ecumenical Lent Course 2016 – This 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. Copies of the book are available from Fr Alec (donations welcome).

BITS AND PIECES

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 last Sunday? 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

Monday Discussion Group: As is our custom we will meet on five Mondays for Lent. The first one will be tomorrow, 8th February followed by 22nd and 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)*

Lent Healing Services will return this year 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.

Lent Charity During Lent we will collect again for the work of **Veterans Aid**.

The Basingstoke Foodbank are short of a few items, in particular: dried milk powder, 1L long-life milk and fruit juice, coffee, crackers/crispbreads, pasta/cooking sauce jars, instant potato mash. Thank you.

2015 Palm Crosses Please return your palm crosses from last year so they can be burned to provide ash for the Ash Wednesday services on Feb 10th. Please place your crosses in the basket provided on the table by the church door by this evening. *Thank you!*

From Rev'd Rachel:

On this last Sunday before Ash Wednesday we are asked by scripture to think about what it is we have put between ourselves and God. Is there anything in our lives that stops us seeing and reflecting his glory to the world around us?

For information: Funeral Service in church this week: Monday 8th February, 1.30 pm, service for Floss Challis RIP

Please pray for

- The humility to look into our own lives in the light of God's glory revealed in Jesus, and see where we might need to change our ways.
- Those living in areas of conflict, particularly in the Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine/Israel, Libya and Iraq, and all refugees and those seeking asylum.
- those approaching baptism and confirmation.
- Kaiden Herald & Harrison Lyon, being baptised today;
- 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; Floss Challis; Eric Kirby; 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 07717942669 rachel@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk,

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