

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.

28th February 2016
Third Sunday of Lent

Hymns

642, 297, 45, 60, 156, 252

TODAY

Lent Charity On Sundays during Lent there will be a retiring collection for **Veterans Aid**. If you would like to gift aid a donation, please use one of the gift aid envelopes provided or download a Gift Aid form from the Veterans Aid website: www.veterans-aid.net. Please leave the form and your donation in an envelope to be forwarded on your behalf.

THIS WEEK

The Ecumenical Lent Course 2016 continues this Tuesday evening at the Methodist Chapel starting at 7.30 pm.

Women's World Day of Prayer takes place this Friday 4th March at 10.30 am at the Methodist Chapel, where the speaker will be Rev'd Alison Parker. All welcome. Refreshments will follow the service.

Men's Breakfast this Saturday 5th March at 8.45 am in the Parish Room.

LOOKING FORWARD

Mothering Sunday We look forward to welcoming the uniformed organisations of the Parish to our Mothering Sunday service next Sunday 6th March. **This service will be at the later time of 10.00 am.**

Messy Church at Easter,
Sat 19th March
4.00-6.00pm



Messy Church is for the whole family to engage in the story of Jesus, through creative activities, worship and a shared meal, all based round the Holy Week story. **CAN YOU HELP US PLEASE?** We need people to guide worshippers through some of the activities (which will be provided), and to serve food. We also need a few people to offer to provide TRAY BAKES and BAKED POTATOES. Costs can be reimbursed. If you can help please let Rev'd Rachel know.

BITS AND PIECES

Confirmation support: Please hold in your prayers James, Fiona and Zenden, as they attend confirmation classes together, and prepare for confirmation at Pentecost.

St Mary's Pastoral Visitors: please join our short course of 4 training sessions if you are already, or would like to consider starting, pastoral visiting to somebody who may be going through a time of isolation, bereavement, or other struggles. Please chat to Sarah to book/for more details. Also see notice board.

Holy Communion at Home If you know anybody who is house-bound or sick and might like to receive Holy Communion at home, please mention to Rev'd Sarah and one of the clergy will be very happy to visit.

Coffee Catch Up – Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support Donations of raffle prizes and cakes would be most appreciated in preparation for our charity morning for Macmillan Cancer Support on 21st March. Please get in touch with Debbie Filer if you'd be willing to bake a cake or donate a prize. Thank you.

Cleaner Required We are sorry to be losing the cleaning services of Melanie Preston-Davies, who has kept both the Church and Parish Room spick and span over recent months. Melanie will be leaving us just before Easter and we are now actively seeking a replacement. Total hours per week are 5 (3 for the Church and 2 for the Parish Room), with the possibility of a job share. If you'd like further details please get in touch with Debbie Filer on 07541 698235 by Friday 4th March.

Basingstoke Street Pastors are currently recruiting Street Pastors & Prayer Pastors. Please do take a look at their latest newsletter in the lobby which gives a valuable insight into the work that they do. For further information contact Malcolm Murray on 07899 913220 or email Basingstoke@streetpastors.org.uk

The Monday Discussion Group continues during Lent, with our next meeting tomorrow at 1.45 pm in the Parish Room. Everyone welcome. *Ann Price tel. 320388.*

Prayers for the Sick All those for who we regularly pray will be prayed for at a Healing

Service in Holy Week (details to follow). Please let one of the clergy know if prayers should continue to be said publicly after Easter when we renew the current list. Thank you.

New Rotas I'm currently compiling the new rotas for the months of April, May & June. It would be appreciated if you could let me know your availability if you haven't already done so. Thank you. *Debbie Filer*

Basingstoke Food Bank Current Needs: Cooking sauces, dry crackers/crispbreads, coffee (small jars please), cold desserts, peanut butter, marmite, dried milk packs, sugar (500g or less), shampoo. Thank you.

From Fr Alec

'Why do bad things happen to good people?' Jesus is asked. It is a deep and painful question that many of us ask at times of distress.

Jesus' response to the disasters of his own time offers us food for thought. Perhaps we might reverse the question and consider the mercy of a God who offers hope to a fallen creation that continues to resist his saving help.

Please pray for

- Courage and faith for all those whose suffering and loss leads them into doubt.
- Grace to serve one another and bear each other's burdens.
- An end to suffering for the people of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Holy Land, and many other places of conflict in our world;
- Leaders and negotiators seeking peace and reconciliation; for them to be guided in wisdom and compassion;
- Those experiencing homelessness close to our doors; for the work of the You Trust, Camrose Centre, May Place and street outreach;
- James, Fiona, Zenden, and all preparing for Baptism or Confirmation.
- 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; David Buckland; Betty Thorne; Maureen Gobener; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Valerie Buckland; 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 07717 942669 rachel@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk,

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