

## 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



## 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

### 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014 The Epiphany

#### Hymns for Today

49, 552, 85, 40, 4, 724

## TODAY

**Epiphany Chalk** Today chalk is blessed for you to take home and write this inscription over the door of your house:

20 + C + M + B + 14

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*. May Christ bless the house."

The crosses represent the protection of Christ, and also the holiness of the Three Magi sanctified by their adoration of the Infant Christ.

The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing.

**The Traidcraft Stall** is available today after the 9.30 am service.

## THIS WEEK

**Pram Service** This Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15 pm. with the theme this month "Kings". This service is a gentle introduction to Christian worship for pre-school children.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**"The Dawn from on High": Epiphany at St Mary's**

During this liturgical season, between Epiphany Sunday and Candlemas, there will be many opportunities to explore the theme of the "manifestation" of Christ to

the world, and to us here at St Mary's. Please come and be involved in a multi-sensory journey which includes tasting cakes, seeing art, and listening to music, all facilitated by the Seasons House Group and friends.

"Round-the-world" Epiphany Tea on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Room at 4pm. Come and try King Cakes from other countries followed by a short Taize style service. All ages are welcome at both. Epiphany and the Arts 1 - is an evening presentation highlighting two Epiphany themes through paintings, poems and music. This is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the Bolton Chapel followed by refreshments.

Epiphany and the Arts 2 - focuses on the Magi and the Presentation in the Temple on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm. Both evenings will close with a short sung Evening Prayer from America and if you would like to come to a practice please join us on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January in the Bolton Chapel at 8pm.

A Creative Epiphany Break - this is a restful day for women after the busy festive season. It will include creative activities, time to reflect, and a delicious lunch. The cost is £6 and fliers are available in the church. For further information about this or any events, contact Gill Sakakini (811956) or look at St Mary's website.

## BITS AND PIECES

**St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival 2013 Angels from the Realms of Glory** A big thank you to all those who volunteered to help in any way during the festival. The total amount raised came **to £1,436.75** so a big thank you to everyone involved for their generosity.

**2014 Parish Pilgrimage** Fr Alec will lead a short pilgrimage to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham from April

22<sup>nd</sup> - April 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 - ie 2 nights away. We will be there on a half board basis and will be travelling by car - we already have 3 drivers so there are plenty of places for passengers! The cost is confirmed as £99 per head.

Places are limited to 12 and details have to be given to the Shrine Office by Jan 28<sup>th</sup>. So please speak to Fr Alec or Penny Potter (333249) if you'd like to know more about it and give in your name(s) to Penny if you want to book a place/places as soon as you can.

**Confirmation** If you (young or old) would like to be confirmed, or just discuss the possibility, please speak to Fr Alec. Classes will begin during Lent, with a view to a confirmation service being held in June.

Holden Evening Prayer - this short sung piece will feature at the end of the Epiphany and the Arts Evenings. If you would like to get to know it, please come and sing at 8pm in the Bolton Chapel on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**Monday Discussion Group:** The next meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 1.45 pm in the Parish Room. Our topic for this session will be 'Reflections of Christmas 2013'. All are welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

**Box Holders: The Children's Society** Just a reminder to all Box Holders that they are now due in to be counted. It would be very much appreciated if they could be brought to church for me to collect or alternatively, dropped off at my house at 42 Linden Avenue, Old Basing, Tel:- Bas. 324065. Many thanks. *Thelma Gregson.*

**Discussion group Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7.30 for 8.00 pm in the Parish Room**

All welcome. We will discuss what we understand by the Grace of God.

**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. DeoGratias Registered Charity No. 1136606**

**PARISH CONTACTS: Vicar** - The Rev'd Alexander Battey 354707 vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

**Churchwardens** - Mrs Myrna Lewis 355157, Mr Ian Kershaw 355500

**Parish Administrator & Parish Room Bookings** - Mrs Debbie Filer 07541 698235 admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

**Friends of St Mary's** (Enquiries to 358533)

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One way of preparing might be to read and ponder the Book of Jonah.

**Family Communion** A reminder that the Family Communion service resumes next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Barn Dance** The Social Group are organising a Barn Dance (for Burns Night) on Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> January at Lychpit Hall (7-10pm). Tickets are available from Janet Jackson (tel. 468351) at £7.50 each.

## FROM FR ALEC

The coming of the wise men demonstrates the universal scope of Christ's salvation from the earliest point in the story. Here is King before whom all peoples will kneel – weak and helpless and lying in a manger – a child too simple and innocent to receive the costly gifts that are laid at his feet.

### ***Please pray for:***

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan. our bishops; especially for bishop Peter preparing for his new appointment.
- Those who speak out against evil and injustice.
- The coming of God's kingdom.
- The growth and development of St Mary's.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Pat and David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Sylvia Dark; Geoffrey Armstead, Margaret Lomax, Des & Joyce Atkin; Canon Simon Wilkinson; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Liz Gray; Enid Saint; Jonathan Parker; Adrienne Sargent; and for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

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