

## 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.

### 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 First Sunday of Advent

**Hymns for Today**  
703, 633, 656, 265, 949, 405

## TODAY

**Advent Collections** Today there will be a retiring collection for St Francis Hospital, Katete. It would be appreciated if collection boxes could be returned to church by the end of December. For more information on the work of the hospital go to [www.saintfrancishospital.net](http://www.saintfrancishospital.net)

**The Traidcraft Stall** is available immediately after today's 9.30 am service.

## THIS WEEK

**Men's Breakfast** This Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 8.45 am in the Parish Room.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**Christmas Services** Details of all Christmas Services are now available on a separate leaflet - please ask a sidesperson.

**Carol Services** St Mary's looks forward to once again hosting the **Naomi House Children's Hospice "Light Up a Life" Service** which this year will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. All are welcome.

**Christmas Tree Festival – Angels from the Realms of Glory, 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>: 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> December.** Only two weeks to go before the church will be turned into a twinkling wonderland as the trees are lit. We are still waiting for people to return their booking forms. Please make this the **best** Festival ever, with the most trees - and the warmest hopefully! The Craft Fair in the Parish Room looks really interesting and exciting with a changing array of stalls on the three days

it is open. There is no Fair on the last Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The lists are now up in the lobby for helpers. We need stewards in the church, mince pies and sweets and biscuits for Vena's stall. Please help us by signing up and giving just an hour of your time. And tell everybody about what's happening and urge them to come and visit us. Any queries: [chris8young@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chris8young@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: 356973

## BITS AND PIECES

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

**Pancreatic Cancer UK Coffee Morning** This event, held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, raised a total of £410.46 on the morning itself and by other donations. Liz Gray, who was unfortunately too unwell to attend, and her family would like to thank all who contributed in so many ways to its success.

**Emma Rawlins RIP** We were saddened to learn of the death this week of Emma Rawlins, a Guide Leader of Old Basing Guides for over 8 years. Emma's funeral is to take place next week in Chandlers Ford.

**DEC Philippines Typhoon Appeal** Last week's retiring collection raised a total of £175.30, which has now been forwarded to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

**Family Service** The last 11.15 am service of 2013 will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The service will resume again in the New Year on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Church Christmas Card** You are encouraged again this Christmas **not** to bring individual Christmas cards to church. A Christmas message board will go up in the coming week so that your Christmas greetings can go to the whole

church not just the people you know. It is suggested that the money saved on cards should go to St Francis' Hospital, Katete: please mark any donations to 'St Francis' Hospital'

**Foodbank Request** Thank you all for your continuing support for the Food Bank Project. Regular donations of food and their delivery to the bank, continue each week. However, at the bank, stocks of **driedmilk** are very low at present, Paula and the team have asked if we could help with this specific item, as it is mainly used for distribution to elderly people. *Myrna Lewis*

**Wanted - a candle-maker!** The church has a large bag of wax candle stubs that could be converted into pillar candle(s) for use in the Bolton Chapel. Can you - or do you know anyone - who could do this? If so please contact Penny Potter. Thank you!

## FROM FR ALEC

Advent is a season of expectation, as we await the coming of Christ in glory to judge the world and make all things new. It is sometimes easy to forget that our Faith is not an historical artefact, but looks forward to a world transformed by God. We may find talk of Christ coming in judgement off-putting, but it testifies to the fact that this world is not as God would have it and that change is necessary in Human society, and in human hearts.

### Please pray for:

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan. our bishops;
- The dark places of the world.
- The coming of God's kingdom.
- The will to see Christ in others.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Liz Gray; Pat and David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Sylvia Dark; Geoffrey Armstead, Margaret Lomax, Jill Basing, Enid Saint, and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Judith Rougierand; Emma Rawlins; Charlie Goddard; Susan Briggs; for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

**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](mailto:vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)