

## 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.

16<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
Third Sunday Before Lent

Hymns for Today  
99, 171, 625, 417, 34, 367

## THIS WEEK

**Ploughmen's Lunches** This Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30 pm. in the Parish Room. All welcome.

**The Discussion Group** will meet on Thursday Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. The topic is "Forgiveness", 7.30 pm for 8 pm in the Parish Room as usual. All are welcome. The group will not meet during Lent.

**St Mary's Flower Arrangers' Coffee Morning** will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 10 am in the Parish Room to which all are welcome.

## LOOKING FORWARD

**Lent Course** Advance notice that this year, as a parish, we will be following the Diocesan Lent Course, which Bishop Tim has commissioned specially to explore the priorities set at the Conference last year. Meetings will be on Thursday evenings during Lent, and I hope you can all find time to attend as we walk together with Christ the transforming journey of Lent. *Fr Alec.*

**Pancake Fun!** The Social Group are planning a Pancake tossing event on Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. 3.30 - 5pm. in the Parish Room. Plan to be there! We need supporters, participants and judges. Prizes to be won. There will be refreshments (including Pancakes!).

**Palm Crosses** Ash Wednesday is March 5<sup>th</sup>, and during the evening Eucharist the congregation will receive the imposition of ash on the forehead, ash being derived from the burning of last year's Palm Crosses. This ashing is a reminder of our human mortality and of repentance and these words are used at the imposition "Remember you are dust and to dust

*you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel".*

Please therefore return your palm crosses and place them in the basket inside the north door. Please do this before March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the latest.

## BITS AND PIECES

**Walsingham Pilgrimage April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>** One place has unexpectedly become available - if you are interested please speak to Penny Potter as soon as possible [01256 333249]

**Holy Dusters Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 10am - 12 noon** Our annual church cleaning session, an extra time for cleaning areas and pieces within the church not routinely dusted, polished or washed will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. If you have a couple of hours to spare, do come and join us, no special skills required, bring your favourite cloths or dusters, wear old clothes, sensible shoes, coffee and biscuits will be provided. *The Churchwardens*

**Parking in the churchyard.** The Vicar and PCC have been advised by our tree surgeon that it is an extremely dangerous practice to park anywhere under the Holm Oak. He has also observed that continuous parking is damaging the roots of the Holm Oak as some of these are near the ground surface. We would like to remind everyone that the "hammer head" is a dropping-off area, turning circle, or 2 spaces only for contractors or "mobility impaired". Cars should be confined to the tarmac area only. *Churchwardens*

**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.

**RSCM Conductor's Workshop** Next Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February the church choir will be hosting a RSCM workshop for young and aspiring choir conductors. As

the new conductors are put through their paces, the choir will do their best to respond, and do justice to, various pieces of choral music and psalms, under their leadership and tuition. Several years ago, the choir "volunteered" to do a similar thing with one conductor, now there are potentially 11 or 12 conductors coming. *Jo and Myrna*

## FROM FR ALEC

As he teaches his followers on the mountain, Jesus invites them and us to think afresh about the Moral Law.

We are all guilty from time to time of seeing right and wrong in outward terms - what we can and can't get away with. In his teaching today he encourages us to think more about *Who we are* than *What we do*.

Our character is the source of our actions, and it is only by taking care to understand ourselves, and what drives us to anger, lust and lies that we can begin to flourish as God wills for us.

### Please pray for:

- Tim, Peter & Jonathan, our bishops; especially for bishop Peter preparing for his new appointment.
- A Church renewed in unity and mutual respect.
- Those driven from their homes and livelihoods by flooding.
- The persecuted church in the Middle East.
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley; Pat and David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Sylvia Dark; Margaret Lomax, Des & Joyce Atkin; Canon Simon Wilkinson; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; and 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