

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.

26th February 2017 Sunday Next Before Lent

Hymns:

105, 67, 70, 60, 357, 419

TODAY

Retiring collection for our February charity: This month we are collecting for our friends in the school and the church in **Katakala, Uganda**, our Global Partnership,

THIS WEEK

Memory Café All welcome, Monday 27th February, 2.15 - 3.45 pm in the Parish Room.

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. **Palm**

Crosses. Please return last year's palm crosses to the basket in the church as they will be burned to provide ash for the Ash Wednesdays services. Thank you.

Women's World Day of Prayer takes place this Friday 3rd March at 10.30 am at St Mary's, with the focus on the Philippines. All welcome. Refreshments will follow.

Coffee Catch Up (every Friday, 1pm - 3.30 pm). All money raised in March will go to the Comic Relief Appeal - do join us if you can, especially for Comic Relief Day itself, 24th March.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 4th March at 8.45 am in the Parish Room.

LOOKING FORWARD

Lent Course Our shared ecumenical Lent Course, *The Mystery of Everything*, based on the film, *The Theory of Everything* will begin at The Methodist Chapel at

7pm on Wed 8th March. There is a chance for all (whether coming to the Lent course or not) to see this popular film at 7.30pm on Mon 6th March in the Parish Room. Refreshments provided. Just note in your diary, and come along.

BITS AND PIECES.

PCC/Deanery Synod Vacancies

There are openings for election to the the PCC, and for Synod representatives (who also sit on the PCC). It is important for a healthy parish to have fresh and vigorous discussion around the decisions we take, and I would encourage anyone with a little time to offer to consider putting themselves forward for nomination ahead of this year's APCM (Sunday 30th April) (*you will need a Proposer and a Seconder*). Please do chat to me or any current PCC members if you'd like further information before putting yourself forward. There is also an information sheet in the lobby giving details of the role of the Deanery Synod. *Fr Alec.*

Monday Discussion Group: As is our custom we will meet weekly during Lent on the following Mondays at 1.45 pm – 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March and 3rd April. Four of the meetings will be in the Bolton Chapel but on 13th March the venue will be the Parish Room. We will study the USPG Lent course 'Living an authentic life.' All are welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

Cleaner required St Mary's is looking for a cleaner for both the Church and the Parish Room, 5 hours per week. The job can be split, 2 & 3 hours respectively with the possibility for a job share. If you, or anyone you know may be interested in this post please get in touch with Debbie Filer (contact details below).

The Basingstoke Foodbank is particularly short of jams & savoury spreads (marmite, peanut butter). Thank you to all who give so generously.

From Fr Alec

It is no coincidence that before we enter the fasting season of Lent we focus on the Transfiguration of Christ. Lent is a time for change, a time for revealing who we really are, and who we can be, Just as Christ's eternal significance is revealed on the mountain. Take time before Lent to ask yourself the deep questions 'Who am I?', 'Where have I been?', 'Where am I going?'

Please pray for

- Grace this Lent to reassess ourselves and determine what and where we are called to be.
- True repentance, to turn ourselves back to Christ and walk with him the way of the cross.
- Loving hearts to serve the most vulnerable in our community, our society, and around the world.
- Our friends in Katakala: St Apollo's church, the school, and the village community..
- Those coping with the darkness of depression, grief, or loneliness;
- The people of Syria, Iraq, the Congo, Yemen and all regions where there is violence, fear, or suffering.
- Residents of Basingfield Court & Oakfields;
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Lisa Allen, Richard Rylance, Elan Bansal; Jackie Deadman; Jean Schluter; Betty & Peter Thorn, Esther Wong; Steve North; Inge Bowman; Thelma Gregson; Peter May-Miller; and all in sorrow or pain
- All those who have died recently: John Lane; 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

Churchwardens - Mrs Tricia Renwick 326155, Mr Ian Kershaw 355500

Home Communion Enquiries – please contact Rev'd Sarah in the first instance

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

Friends of St Mary's (Enquiries to 358533) **St Mary's Church Website Address:** www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk