

## 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.

4<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
Harvest Festival

### Hymns for Today

719, 6, 890, 900, 915, sheet, 382

## TODAY

**Welcome** Today we particularly welcome the uniformed organisations of the Parish as we celebrate our Harvest Festival. Thank you to all who have so generously donated items for the Basingstoke Food Bank and during the service there will be a monetary collection on the Food Bank's behalf. **Thank You** to everyone involved in organising today's Parish Lunch following on from the service.

**Holy Baptisms** At 2.00 pm Lesley, Jack & Megan Langham and Ollie Broad are to be baptised. All are welcome.

## THIS WEEK

### Basingfield Court Harvest Celebration

All are invited to join in an afternoon of harvest songs & celebration at Basingfield Court on Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2-3pm. Please see one of the clergy if you'd like to go along.

**The Pilgrim Course** continues this Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room. For more details please speak to the clergy.

**Prayers & Bears** this Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in the Parish Room. This month will have a Harvest theme where we will be thanking God for what he has given us in creation. If you happen to have any sunflower seed heads or other harvest items from your gardens to bring and give God thanks for, you would be welcome to bring them - along with your bears!

### What IS Messy Church?

We are very fortunate to have Lucy Moore, a founder of the Messy Church format, to come and speak to us. **ALL ARE WELCOME** in the Parish Room on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Oct from 2-4pm. Please talk to Fr Alec, Sarah or Rachel for more information.



## LOOKING FORWARD

### St Mary's Crib Festival, 2015

Save the date! Our Christmas Festival 2015 takes on a new look! We are inviting our surrounding community to visit an array of different Christmas nativity scenes which will be exhibited throughout the church on the **weekend of 11-13 December**. If you have previously decorated a tree or would like to get involved for the first time, please think about sharing your own "crib scene" or consider making your own! For ideas and inspiration, more information and a generally creative evening, please come to the **Crib Festival Workshop this Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm in the Bolton Chapel**. See Gill or Rowena for more information.

## BITS AND PIECES

**HOMEGROUPS** The first of two homegroups started last Sunday, kindly hosted by Steve & Gill Sakakini. This group will next meet on Sundays 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30 pm.

Penny Potter is hosting a group on Thursday nights for six consecutive weeks from October 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7.30pm.

These will provide places of fellowship to explore more about our faith. Both groups will start with refreshments and will be studying The Beatitudes in this first period, using materials from the Pilgrim Course. Please let these generous hosts know if you would like to join them, or talk to the clergy for more information.

**Monday Discussion Group:** Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> October at 1.45 pm in the Parish Room. We will continue the study guide by Embrace. Study 5 is called 'Birds and sea creatures'. Everyone welcome. *Ann Price (320388)*

**The Children's Society Coffee Morning and Christmas Card Sale** This will take place in the Parish Room on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 10 am -12 noon. As well as the Christmas Cards sale other stalls will include a raffle, knitted goods, bric-a-brac and a children's corner with fun and surprises.

**Cakes:** There will also of course be our delicious homemade cake stall! If you are willing to provide a cake, sweets or preserves

for this event, please speak to Fay Farrant in church or tel. 476863. Thank you in anticipation! For other enquiries please speak to Rosemary Kershaw, tel. 355500.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** Thank you to everyone who came along to the recent coffee morning organised by the Men's Breakfast team. A total of £160 was raised.

**The Friends of St Mary's** invite you to an evening of **murder, mystery & fine dining** on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7.30 pm at Old Basing Village Hall. Tickets are available from Joan Cole (tel. 324749) or Chris Beadle (tel. 358533) at a cost of £25 per person (£23 for "Friends") to include a welcome drink, canapés & a two course meal. You are requested please to bring your own drinks & glasses and to dress smart or 1920's style!

### From Fr Alec

At harvest time we take a moment to give thanks for the good things that we receive at the hand of God. But this act of thanksgiving should remind us also of our total dependence on his Grace – his free-handed generosity; should remind us of the limits of our own ability to help ourselves.

Aware of all we receive from God we should feel a deep sense of solidarity with all those who are hungry or homeless and lacking the basic necessities that we consume so often without thinking.

### Please pray for

- Thankful hearts and eyes that are open to God's endless acts of grace in our lives.
- Refugees, and all those seeking asylum.
- Those living in suffering, particularly in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and Iraq.
- The people of St Apollo's Church in Katakala.
- Our Bishops Tim, David and Jonathan.
- Lesley, Jack & Megan Langham; Ollie Broad being baptised today;
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Penelope Bickley ;Elan Bansal; David Sacree; Beryl Streether; Mavis Lloyd; Jackie Deadman; Jean Schluter; Clifford & Christopher Browne; Des Atkin; Violet Philips, Emily Fisk; and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Richard Godfrey; Albert Stevens; 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](mailto:vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

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