

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

22nd December 2013 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hymns for Today

684, 16, 182, 678 (omit vv
2&4) 405

TODAY

Katete Advent Collection During Sundays in Advent there will be a retiring collection for St Francis Hospital, Katete. For more information on the work of the hospital go to www.saintfrancishospital.net

CAROL SERVICE TODAY AT 5.00 PM

THIS WEEK

Christmas Day Services We look forward to welcoming Reverend Hugh Cockledge who will be taking the 8.00 am Holy Communion Service on Christmas Day.

Clergy Availability Fr Alec will be on leave from Weds. 26th December until the Eucharist on the 5th January. Please use the 'Parish Contacts' Box to discuss urgent matters with members of the team here at St Mary's.

LOOKING FORWARD

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

Looking forward to Epiphany at St Mary's: "The Dawn from on High" is a series of events that will take place during the season of Epiphany and will be facilitated by the Season's House Group. Please note the dates and watch for further publicity. **Round-the-world Epiphany Tea and Taize Service** on January 12th, two evenings of **Epiphany**

and the Arts on January 14th & 28th, two **Creative Quiet Days** for pre-school and school mums on Jan 15th & 22nd.

BITS AND PIECES

Happy Christmas Fr Alec, Kath, Eleanor and Felix would like to thank everyone for their Christmas greetings and wish you all a very blessed Christmas.

Announcement from The Rt. Rev'd Tim Dakin, Bishop of Winchester:

Dear Friends, It is with great pleasure, albeit tinged with personal sadness, that I can confirm Peter Hancock will be leaving us as Bishop of Basingstoke to become the next Bishop of Bath and Wells. Since joining us from Portsmouth in 2010, Peter has made an enormous contribution to the life of this Diocese. I for one will miss his wise counsel and input on Bishop's Staff and I know that he has also made a great many friends across Winchester's parishes.

I am sure that you all, like me, will wish both Peter and Jane the very best as they make the move to Somerset next year. We will hold them in our prayers for the fresh challenges that lie ahead. *Yours in Christ, +Tim*

Christmas Greetings If you haven't yet had a chance to sign the Christmas greeting sheet by the North Door please do so (and make an offering to Katete at the same time!).

2014 Parish Pilgrimage Fr Alec will lead a short pilgrimage to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham next APRIL 22nd - APRIL 24th (ie 2 nights away). We will travel by private cars and will be staying in the Anglican Hostel on a half board basis. The cost will be about £100 per person. Places are limited; there are some twin and some single rooms. If you would like to put your name down or find out more please speak to Penny Potter. (or

look on the web at www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk)

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.

Collection News:

The Recent Epistle-a-thon in aid of St Mary's raised a total of £122.38.

The Children's Society. Our fundraising efforts this year (e.g. Christmas Cards, Coffee morning, Christingle Service etc) raised the grand total of £1256.90. Thanks to all who helped to raise this grand sum. *T Gregson*

Naomi House "Light Up A Life" We have received an email from Naomi House thanking everyone at St Mary's for their hospitality and generosity at the recent Carol Service. A total of £455 was raised.

Thanks to everyone for their generous contributions to all of the above charities.

Cathedral Passes A reminder that the Parish has 6 free passes to Winchester Cathedral. Please ask Penny Potter if you wish to borrow one for a visit.

Family Communion A reminder that there will be a break in the Family Communion service over Christmas. It will commence again at Epiphany on 12th January.

Wanted : Brass Cleaners. One brass cleaner who cleans the brass in January and March has had to give up due to ill health. Can anyone volunteer to take on one of these months please? Contact either Ian Kershaw (355500) or Pat Barnes (322150). Thank you.

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

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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FROM FR ALEC

As we draw close to the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we are often invited to share with Mary the moment of the Annunciation. The awesome responsibility she must have felt, and the humility she showed in her willing obedience to God's call. As we do, it is easy to miss the anguish of poor Joseph as he decently and humbly reconciled himself to events, and the courage of adopting Jesus as his son-protecting, providing and caring for The word made flesh.

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, Jill Basing, Enid Saint, Des & Joyce Atkin; Adrienne Sargent and all others in pain or sorrow;
- All those who have died recently; Roy Butlin; David Fowle; Liz Gray; and for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

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