

AMATEUR SLEUTH?

Come and solve our **Murder Mystery Play** performed by West Huntspill Players, enjoy a gourmet three course meal plus coffee and mints on Saturday 30th May, 7pm for 7:30pm start in St. Michael's Hall. Tickets are £20 per person, dress code smart - no jeans please. All profits to support Highworth Methodist Church Laywork and African children in Kenya.

For more information, please speak to **Anne Drew** or **Sandra Cox**, booking forms available at the Methodist Church or the Lighthouse Bookshop.

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in Sevenfields, Shrivensham Road, Skye Close, Spa Close, Stapleton Close, and for all who live or work on Sheep Street

PRAYER

O Lord our God,
Give us, we pray, your peace and your strength
That we may feel your power and witness your presence in our lives,
Uniting us in our love for you,
Giving us the desire to take Christ out into our troubled world
And inspiring us to share your love among those whose lives we touch.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

THANK YOU - for all your cards and good wishes on our 25th wedding anniversary. **Rowena and Don Leonard**

METHODIST EVENTS - all on 16th May

- **The National Methodist Youth Brass** Band will play at Bath Road Methodist Church, Swindon, on Saturday 16th May, 2009 at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00 (or children & YP £2.50)
- HMC invite you to a **Men's Breakfast** at the Methodist Church, 8.30am on 16th May with speaker Gerard Chrispin, former General Director of Daylight Christian Prison Trust & Christian Writer
- A helpful and challenging talk '**How Can God Allow Suffering?**' followed by question and answer session, at the Methodist Church, 7.00pm on Saturday 16th May with speaker Gerard Chrispin.

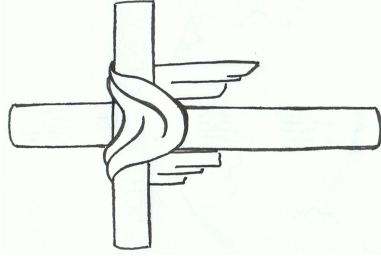
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled,
praying especially for
Frank Barnett, Lorna Bowie, Bob Bromberg, Leonard Cheesley, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Lesley Evans, Kim Fulgoni, Joan Furlonger, Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Timothy James, Keith Lodwick, Carole Richmond, Julia Riggs, Mick Sellar, Betty Taber

...all those who are recently bereaved,
praying especially for those who love and miss Stephen Ridge and Ernest Wilson

Parish of Highworth, with Sevenhampton & Inglesham - who to contact

All Ministry Enquiries - Rev Geoff Sowden (day off Friday) telephone 01793-765554
Church Office (Administration/General Enquiries) - tel 01793-762702 or
email to stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk
Youth Ministry Enquiries - telephone 07983-507349 (day off Saturday)
www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk



Week beginning Sunday 10th May 2009

The kingdom of God Jesus spoke about was first of all a spiritual kingdom in the hearts and lives of believers. So we do not need to ask when the kingdom of God will come as Jesus would reply, "The kingdom of God is within you." As believers we are promised God's **presence and power** dwelling in us in the person of the Holy Spirit. That's some promise!

In today's Gospel Jesus prayed for all who would follow him, including you and others you know. He prayed for unity of witness, for protection from the evil one, for holiness of living. Jesus calls us all to be united in our witness to the reality of God's love for everyone. John Stott declares, "God made us social creatures to live and work together. God has constituted his Church one Body with many members differing in function from one another. We need one another and we depend on one another."

As we pray - perhaps too easily - 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven' let us remember **we** are called to make Jesus our Saviour known to others through our words and our lives, through our prayers and our gifts. We cannot be idle bystanders. We do not know where we are on the calendar of God's unfolding purpose. So, right here and now - wherever here and now is - we are to 'be' Christ to others. We have His promise to be with us always. What more could we need as we seek to reflect God's unconditional love to our troubled nation and world? Let's dare to go out in the peace and strength of God, ready to impart to others what we first received from him. Amen! So let it be!

Jean Ashton

Our readings today are

Acts 1:6-11 (pew bible pi092)

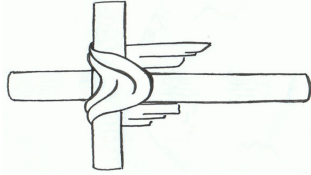
John 17:20-26 (pew bible p1085)

Please join us for refreshments after the 10am service today

If you prefer not to take alcohol, alcohol-free wine is available at our communion services - please take a pink card from a steward and ensure it is visible as you come for communion

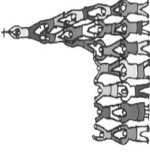
SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 10th May 2009, Easter 5

Highworth	8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden/Luke Walton 10.00am Parish Communion and Christian Aid Commissioning, Geoff Sowden/Luke Walton
Hannington	2.00pm Baptism of Lois and Isabelle Floyd 6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Blunston	10.30am Morning Worship, Arthur Woo 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage 10.00am Family Worship, Jane Ockwell 6.30pm Evensong, John Rees
Grove Hill	7.30pm Evening Service, Geoff Sowden



SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 17th May 2009, Easter 6

Highworth	8.00am Holy Communion CW, David Day 10.00am Morning Worship, Phil Bradley/Lesley Page 6.30pm Shared choral evensong, Blunston, Jean Ashton
Hannington	10.30am Rogation Service, Geoff Sowden
Blunston	10.00am Family Communion. John Rees/Katherine Dack 6.30pm Shared choral evensong, Jean Ashton
Newburgh	7.30pm Holy Communion, Hilary Fortnam



PRAYER FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

The next time of prayer for our corporate worship will be held in church tomorrow **Monday 11th May**. There will be three sessions:
10.00am-11.00am and 3.30pm-4.30pm (these sessions will be suitable for those with children), and 7.00pm-8.00pm. These times will all be led in prayer. Please come to one if you can, if you are not able to then please pray with us at home.

YOUTH ITEM

Coming soon! The youth team are doing a Fundraiser showing of the 2000 version of Jesus Christ Superstar to raise money for orphanage/school project in Uganda. Dell Cook (Matt's mum) set this up before her death and we want to see it continue. The Cook children have been fundraising in Warneford this wk Cakes will be there of course. It is a great modern version of a great show. Come and join our young people, sing along - and sniffie! More info soon!
Rachel Cook

WILLOWS COUNSELLING SERVICE

We are moving! From 20 May we will be at The Willows Centre, 11 Prospect Place, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3LQ. Telephone: 01793 426650. Email: willows@willowscounselling.org.uk

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 11 th	10.00am-11.00am, 3.30pm-4.30pm and 7.00pm-8.00pm Prayers in church for our corporate worship (till 11.00am) 7.30pm Visiting Bellringers 8.00pm Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office 9.00am Warneford School in church with Arthur 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room 9.00am Deadline for items for Parish News June issue 9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room 9.30am Little Fishes, Cullerne Room and Chancel 7.00pm Pilates in the Church Room 11.00am 'One Only' in the Church Room 6.00pm Wedding rehearsals in church 7.30pm Churchwarden Service at St John and St Helen, Wroughton 7.30pm Bellringing practice, Bell Tower 7.00pm Choir Practice 8.30am Men's Breakfast, HMC, see back page 9.30am Highworth Choral Society rehearsing in church 10.00am Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room 1.30pm Prayer & dedication service for Kirsty Hicks and Andy Netter 3.00pm Wedding of Theresa Lampard and Nathan Lynham 7.00pm How can God allow suffering? Talk at HMC - see back page 7.30pm Methodist Youth Band, Bath Road Methodist Church 2.00pm Baptism of Deanne, Daniel, Matthew and Charlotte Chivers
Tue 12 th	
Wed 13 th	
Thu 14 th	
Fri 15 th	
Sat 16 th	
Sun 17 th	

PARISH NEWS DEADLINE - The deadline for the June issue of the Parish News is this Wednesday 13th May - yes early this month due to where the days fall in the month! Please email items to parishnewshighworth@yahoo.com, deliver to 1 The Paddock. We'd love more contributors please!
Kathleen Spencer

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2009

Christian Aid Week starts today. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collections. If you can help please sign the lists in church or contact us.
Tricia and Peter Croton

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS

We all enjoy our time of fellowship after the 10.00am service with a hot drink and a biscuit to keep us going till lunch. But it doesn't just happen - there is a rota of lovely people who make the drinks, get the biccies and wash up too. If you feel able to join this group there are some spaces on the rota - it works out about once every six weeks or so. Please contact **Janet Livall** to offer your help.

ARTHUR'S ORDINATION

Arthur will be ordained priest at Bristol Cathedral on 27th June, at 3.30pm. There is a sheet on the chest for people to sign if they would like a seat on the coach - likely times are leaving Highworth 1.30pm and leaving Bristol 5.30pm approximately. Cost depends on numbers going!