

SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 16th November, 2nd before Advent

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
	10.00am	Gift Service, Bella Fasham/Katie James/Lesley Uzzell
	6.00pm	Shared Choral Evensong, Arthur Woo
Hannington	10.30am	Matins BCP. Arthur Woo
Blunsdon	10.00am	Family Communion, Geoff Sowden
Newburgh	7.30pm	Evening Service, Arthur Woo



SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 23rd November, Sunday before Advent

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden/Jean Ashton
	10.00am	Parish Communion, Geoff Sowden/Jean Ashton
	6.00pm	Informal Worship, tba
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, Charles Kirke
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
	10.00am	Family Worship, John Rees/Jane Ockwell/Katherine Dack

COFFEE MORNING NEXT WEEK

The Flower Guild are holding an extra coffee morning next **Saturday November 22nd** to raise funds towards the cost of this year's Christingle Service. We do hope you will come along and support us.

Barbara Lawton

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

The Social Committee will be holding their Christmas Coffee Morning in the Church Room on 6th December 10am to 12.00.
Drinks plus hot sausage rolls or mince pies, Raffle, Cake stall (including Christmas puddings and home made chutney) and a gift stall. Offers of cakes and gifts to Rosie or Lesley P.
We look forward to seeing you there.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 17 th	9.30am	Prayers in church
	10.00am	Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
	9.30am & 1.00pm	Watercolour Group in Church Room
	7.30pm	PCC in the Church Room
Tue 18 th	9.30am	Pilates, Church Room
	2.00pm	Magazine Working Party, Cullerne Room
Wed 19 th	9.30am	Music Bugs, Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes, Cullerne Room/chancel
	7.00pm	Pilates, Church Room
	8.00pm	Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Grn (contact Wendy)
Thu 20 th	10.00am	Morning Worship, Warneford Chapel in Church
	6.00pm	Hudson Beavers in church with Geoff Sowden
	7.00pm	Network course, Church Room (see below)
	7.30pm	Bellingring Practice, Bell Tower
	7.30pm	Blunsdon PCC
Fri 21 st	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 22 nd	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room



CHURCH OFFICE CONTACT - to email Rosie in the Church Office please don't use the old 'btinternet' address as these no longer get through. The correct address is stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk.

DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Following the Holy Spirit sermon series we are running a 3 session course called Network designed to help you discover your spiritual gifts. Course dates: Thursdays Nov 20th & 27th and Dec 11th. Time: 7pm - 9pm, venue: Church Room. Please sign the sheet on the chest if you are interested or speak to **Arthur or Lynn Woo** for more information. Participants will need to purchase a course guide costing £5.50.

NEEDED.....If anyone has any kinds of 'filling' material, suitable for soft toys, eg. clean, old tights/stockings, pillow filling etc. Angela in the Craft Room at Newburgh House (or Madeleine Newton) will be grateful to receive these.

Changes to St Michael's 10.00am Sunday Morning Children's Clubs

There is now a new structure for Sunday Children's Clubs. This is for a trial period until Christmas, and has been brought about due to the lack of children's leaders. Current rotas will continue until Christmas, with the Busy Bees rota operating for Discoverers and the Discoverers/Explorers one for Explorers. During the 10.00am service the following groups will run: **Busy Bees** 0-3yrs - this will simply be a crèche in the South Transept (to the right of the church at the front). In this area parents remain fully responsible for their own children. **Discoverers** 3-6yrs (pre-school to end of Yr 1) - meet in the Church Room - please leave church with leaders through the main South door (by the font). **Explorers** 6-10 yrs (Yr 2 - Yr 6) - meet in the Cullerne Room, please leave church through the door at the front by the organ.

We request please that traffic through the Cullerne Room be kept to a minimum during Sunday Club times, as the older children now meeting there have prayer and discussion times. We appreciate that the route to the toilets is through the Cullerne Room - if possible please use the Chancel door to keep interruptions minimal.

OSTEOPOROSIS SUPPORT GROUP

Osteoporosis affects many, and a new Osteoporosis Support Group has started meeting monthly in Swindon at the Health Hydro, Milton Rd. The next meeting will be Friday 12th December 1.30-3.30pm and the subject will be 'Posture & Exercise' demonstrated by physiotherapists from GWH. For more details see the poster in the porch.

Hilary Fortnam

THE CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS

CONCERT will be held in St Michael's Church on **Saturday 6th December** at 7.30pm. The programme includes works by John Rutter and JS Bach as well as carols for choir and audience. Tickets £7 (children free) from Lighthouse Bookshop, or on the door. Please support your local choral group! **Anne Hinton**

PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, we pray for the children who will receive our shoeboxes of gifts this year. We thank you for all that we have - not only for the clothes and toys we have, but for other simple things, like heat and light, water and food, work and school. Be with the children who receive these gifts, shower them with your love and fill their lives with hope.

Amen

YOBZ AND BIG BREKKY NOOZI

Just to remind all young people in years 6 up that big brekky is on EVERY week at 9am in the bridge whatever the service in Church so come along and have great grub, fun, worship and games in a great environment. It is free as we put in a contribution from the youth budget but donations are welcome if you want! On the first Sunday of the month we do it a bit differently as we meet in the Church Room to share breakfast and fellowship and make friends with our wider church family. Contact Rache Cook for further info

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those living in Fair View, Folly Close, Folly Crescent, Folly Drive, Folly Way, Glebe Place, Grange Close and The Green

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

...*all those who are sick or troubled, praying especially for*

Yvonne Beck, Lorna Bowie, Esmé Buller, Leonard Cheesley, Jacqueline Corney, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Arthur Francis, Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Peggy King, Netta Porter, Fred Rockall, Mick Sellar, Betty Taber

...*those who are recently bereaved, praying especially for those who love and miss*
Vic Cripps, Christine Saxone

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 16th November 2008

God loves a cheerful giver: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

A gift in a Shoebox can change a child's life. For some of the world's most disadvantaged children, their Operation Christmas Child shoebox could be the first Christmas present they have ever received! Last year, 1.3 million shoeboxes left the UK for children in the poorest parts of the world.

Paul writes about 'giving cheerfully' when you have that free choice. Giving is not an insurance policy/an investment hoping for a good return, but a no-strings-attached generous response to need, from the depths of a thankful heart.

People give for many reasons, cheerful or otherwise, but it is not for us to judge their motives. Instead we should examine our own in the light of God's love for us, *that He gave us His Son*. While the verses today specifically refer to money, it surely touches 'giving' generally - the giving of ourselves, our time, our assets, our talents - back to God to be used in His service.

Some Christians in poor countries surprise and embarrass westerners by their generosity. Out of affliction and poverty, love flows. The most generous-hearted Christians may never have big bank accounts, but as long as they have love to give, God will supply them with the means to show that love.

If you would like to contribute towards the work of Operation Christmas Child, there are leaflets at the cross-aisle in church, or speak to a Worship Leader at the 10am service. Your simple act of generosity gives hope to children caught in the midst of wars, disasters and extreme poverty, and shows them they have not been forgotten.

Hilary Fortnam



Our readings today are

Matthew 2:1-12 (pew bible p966)

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (pew bible p1163)

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