

**SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, Advent Sunday**

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, John Rees/Phil Bradley  
 10.00am Morning Worship, Geoff Sowden/Phil Bradley/Rob Stewart  
 (Children's Groups meet today)  
 4.00pm Christingle Service, Arthur Woo/Jean Ashton  
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Worship, John Rees/Arthur Woo  
 Newburgh 7.30pm Evening Service, Hilary Fortnam



**SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 1**

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion, John Rees  
 9.00am Church Breakfast, Church Room - all are welcome  
 10.00am All Age Worship & baptism, Arthur Woo/Bella Fasham  
 (No Children's Groups today)  
 6.00pm Informal Worship, tba  
 Sevenhampton 9.00am Holy Communion, Geoff Sowden  
 Hannington 10.30am Holy Communion, Geoff Sowden  
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Worship, John Rees

The Social Committee will be holding their

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING**

in the Church Room on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10am-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.

**CHURCH SERVICE ROTA** is in the letter rack

for those who need one and don't receive it electronically - please check for your copy.

**CAN YOU HELP US HELP CHRISTIAN AID?**

A collection to support Christian Aid will be made at Tesco's supermarket, Ocotal Way, Swindon on Saturday, 6 Dec from 09.00 to 17.00. If you can spare an hour or two on that day please contact us or Helen Thomas. And please support the collection when you do your shopping.

Thank-you. **Tricia & Peter Croton**

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30am Prayers in church  
 10.00am Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office  
 9.30am & 1.00pm Watercolour Group in Church Room  
 7.00pm HCS rehearsal in church  
 9.30am Pilates, Church Room  
 7.00pm Neighbourhood Watch in Church Room  
 7.30pm Wedding rehearsal in church  
 8.00pm Finance and Fabric meeting, 28 Barra Close  
 9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room  
 9.30am Little Fishes, Gullenne Room/chancel  
 7.00pm Pilates, Church Room  
 8.00pm Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Grn (contact Wendy)  
 10.00am Morning Worship, Warneford Chapel in Church  
 7.00pm Pentylands Country Park Group, Church Room  
 7.30pm Bellingring Practice, Bell Tower  
 7.00pm Choir Practice  
 10.00am Social Committee Christmas Coffee Morning, Church Room  
 12.00noon Wedding of Vickie Stebbing and Luke Ruddle, St Michael's  
 12.00noon Wedding of Sarah Harvey and Robin Clarke, St Leonard's  
 1.00pm HCS in Church Room and church for set up and rehearsal  
 7.00pm Highworth Choral Society Christmas Concert, St Michael's

**Interested in a daytime homegroup?**

Two new groups meeting for bible study, fellowship and prayer are starting:

- Just started Monday mornings 10am-12noon, a group with a play area for children. Venue varies. Please contact **Bella Fasham**

- Starting in the new year with day and venue to be agreed. Please contact **Lynn Woo.**

**STORIES ROUND THE CRIB**

Next Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00am to noon Juliet Salway will be telling Christmas stories round the crib in the United Reformed Church. All children (and adults) are warmly invited to come and listen for part or all of the time. Info from **Juliet**

**THE CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS**

**CONCERT** will be held in St Michael's Church next **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

**ST. MICHAEL'S FLOWER GUILD**

Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning last Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The proceeds will be donated towards the Christingle Service.

Next Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December there is a meeting of the group to discuss the church Christmas flowers at Julia Bishop's home, 27 Pound Road at 8pm. Please make every effort to attend. **Barbara Lawton**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT ST MICHAEL'S**

St Michael's Flower Guild invites you to give donations in remembrance of a loved one at Christmas. This has proved so successful over the years. The church always looks so wonderful. It is a great joy to call in for coffee and mince pies, relax and share your memories - a noticeboard is provided for you to record your special messages. Please ring me for more details, I am happy to speak or call on you. Please phone **Julie**.

### MEET MICHAEL WILLS MP

Michael Wills MP is holding an open meeting at St Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road on **Friday 12 December** at 6:30pm. However, a letter to residents about this meeting incorrectly has the venue listed as St Michael's Church Hall, Vicarage Lane. On the day of the meeting we will have a member of staff directing people to the correct venue. Please pass this on to all you know who may be planning to attend the meeting, at which Michael Wills MP will be taking questions from residents.  
**Alexis Wieronley**

### PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those living in Islay Crescent, Kilda Road, Kings Avenue, Knowlands, Lechlade Road, for those who live in Inglesham village, and for all who live or work on High Street

### PRAYER

Come, Lord, come down, come in, come among us.  
Enter into our darkness with your light.  
Come fill our emptiness with your presence.  
Dispel the clouds and reveal your glory.  
Come refresh, renew, restore us.  
Come, Lord, come down, come in, come among us.  
**Amen**

**NOTICES FOR CHURCH** to improve consistency across services we will have a system of uniform notices for the 8am and 10am services from 7<sup>th</sup> December. If you have an important notice to be read out on a Sunday please email or telephone Rosie by the previous Thursday morning. Or hit the Bulletin deadline - 6pm Thursdays - and everyone can read it.

### NEEDFUL AND URGENT CHURCH

#### CALL TO PRAYER

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 3.00pm in Church.  
As Vicar and Church Wardens, we are asking all members of St Michael's as a matter of priority and urgency to come together as a Church to be open and prayerful before the Lord, concerning the issues on our hearts, that could divide us.  
**Geoff, Rosie, Mike**

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

*...all those who are sick or troubled,*  
praying especially for  
Yvonne Beck, Lorna Bowie, Bob Bromberg, Beryl and Eric Brown, Esmé Buller, Leonard Cheesley, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Arthur Francis, Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Peggy King, Netta Porter, Julia Riggs, Mick Sellar, Jean Stanley, Betty Taber  
*...all those who are recently bereaved,*  
praying especially for those who love and miss Jacqueline Corney

### **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](mailto:stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk)  
Youth Ministry Enquiries - telephone 07983-507349 (day off Saturday)  
[www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)



### **Week beginning Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

#### **Advent - looking forward to the coming of Christ**

As we look to celebrate the first coming of Jesus this Christmas can we honestly say we look forward with the same excitement and anticipation to His second coming? We are in the 'in-between times' between the first and second coming of Christ, and in the latter part of Mark 13 what can we see about living our lives during these turbulent times:

1. Mark 13:33 and 37 - "Watch and keep awake". This terminology refers to events in the garden of Gethsemane, but the words apply to us metaphorically that we need to walk closely with Christ and not drift away from Him (sleep metaphorically meaning being apart from Christ).
2. Mark 13:31 - "Heaven and earth will pass away but [Christ's] words will not pass away". We need to focus on the words of Christ that can be found in the bible. We are so swayed away from Christ's words by earthly things such as possessions, money and 'busyness', but Christ is clear - His words are eternal and should be our number one priority.
3. Mark 13:34 - Jesus likened the 'in-between' to a master going away and leaving His servants with tasks and to keep watch. We are those servants for Christ on Earth and we all have tasks assigned to us by Him - some may be called to watch and pray whilst others have other gifts and tasks within the church body. Jesus clearly calls us to use these gifts.

Isaiah 64:1-9 speaks of God's appearance being of high intensity and Mark 13:26-27 talks of Jesus coming in clouds with great power and glory - therefore we will know when He comes if we "keep watch". Are we so busy on worldly activities that we neglect Christ, His Word and His tasks for us? Are we therefore worried that when He comes again He will find us falling far short of what He asked of us? Let us pray for His help to be ready and excited by making Christ our priority this Christmas and beyond.

**Phil Bradley**

#### **Our readings today are**

Isaiah 64:1-9 (pew bible p750)

Mark 13:24-37 (pew bible p1019)

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