

SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 1st February 2009, Epiphany 4

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, John Rees
9.00am Church Breakfast, all are welcome to the Church Room
10.00am All Age Worship, Arthur Woo/Rob Stewart/Katie James
6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo/Rachel Cook
Sevenhampton **6.00pm** Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden *note time change*
Hannington 10.30am Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden
Blunsdon 10.00am Family Communion, John Rees/Katherine Dack

CHURCH BREAKFAST

Church breakfast will follow the 8am service this morning. All will be welcome as we share breakfast and fellowship in the Church Room.

Ian Miller

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 8th February 2009, 3rd before Lent

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
10.00am Parish Communion, Geoff Sowden/Phil Bradley
3.00pm ATC Parade, Arthur Woo/Rev John Darling
6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo/Phil Bradley
10.30am Morning Worship, Ven Alan Hawker
8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
10.00am Family Worship, Jane Ockwell
6.30pm Evensong, John Rees/Hilary Fortnam
Evening Service, Helen Weaver
Hannington
Blunsdon
Grove Hill

PRAYER AND FASTING TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF OUR CORPORATE WORSHIP.

We are going to hold a series of fasting and prayer days on the first Monday of each month to consider the future of our corporate worship. The first of these will be on Monday 2nd February.

Can I ask all of us to consider the following:

- Fasting for all or some of the day
- Praying at home, using the prayer insert we will produce in the weekly bulletin
- Coming to the usual prayer meeting held on a Monday at 9.30am in the chancel.
- Coming to some or all of a half night of prayer, to be held in the chancel between 6.00pm and midnight.

Geoff

Half night of prayer

Please see the insert in this week's bulletin for details of the half night of prayer to be held tomorrow 2nd February from 6.00pm until midnight. Please join us in church or at home as you are able.

Lynn Woo and Debbie Bradley

OUTREACH EVENING

There will be an outreach evening at HMC this Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm. Ian McCormack will give his testimony about how he was stung by a jellyfish and consequently died and glimpsed heaven – hence the title 'A Glimpse of Heaven'. Do you know someone who needs Jesus? Bring them along – a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus.

Cindy Robinson

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 2 nd	9.00am Watercolour group, church room, till 3.00pm
	9.30am Prayers in the chancel - all are welcome
	10.00am Ministry Team meeting, Church Office
	10.00am Monday daytime fellowship (contact Bella)
	6.00pm Half night of prayer in church, come when you are able
	7.00pm Church Room booked for private hire
Tue 3 rd	Church Office closed today
	9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am Tuesday Daytime Fellowship, 14 Brookfield (Lynn)
	11.30am Funeral of George Perks at Kingsdown
	8.00pm ICC Prayer meeting, The Bridge
Wed 4 th	9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room
	9.30am Little Fishes, Cullerne room and chancel
	1.30pm Funeral of Lesley Hibbert at Kingsdown
	7.00pm Pilates in the Church Room
	7.15pm Network course in church
	8.00pm Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Green (Wendy)
Thu 5 th	10.00am Morning Worship, Warneford Chapel in church
	7.30pm Alpha in Church Room
	7.30pm Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
	7.30pm Outreach Evening, Methodist Church
	8.30pm Corporate Worship working group, Cullerne Room
Fri 6 th	3.30pm Church Room booked for private hire till 6.30pm
	7.00pm Choir Practice
	7.00pm Yofs in Church Room
Sat 7 th	10.00am Coffee Morning for Macmillan Care Support, Church Room
	2.00pm Church Room booked for private hire till 6.00pm
	7.00pm 'Just for Fun' Quiz Night in St Michael's Hall
Sun 8 th	7.30pm Corporate Worship working group, Church Room

Annual Income Survey - We will be carrying out the annual Anonymous Income Survey on Sundays 8th and 15th February. This survey will be used to calculate our apportionment of Diocesan costs and so it is very important that everyone who is a regular worshipper at St Michael's completes a form to ensure that we are charged a fair allocation. Please note that **couples complete separate forms as two individuals.** Individuals record their **personal** income, not their household or spouse's, and it is important that you complete a form even if you have no personal income, are on a pension, or are under 16 years of age. Confidentiality is assured, the returns are **completely anonymous.** So PLEASE complete a form.

Rosie and Mike Churchwardens

COFFEE MORNING

Next Saturday 7th February the coffee morning will be in aid of Macmillan Care Support (Macmillan Nurses). Donations of cakes, raffle prizes or bring-&-buy items would be welcome.

Lady Robertson

The Church in Highworth meets for prayer this Tuesday 3rd February at 8pm in the Bridge.

'Just for Fun' Quiz Night

Please let either Rosie (in the office) or Lesley Page (43 The Willows) have your forms by lunchtime on Thursday 5th February at the latest.

The Next Youth Alpha course is starting soon so if you are in year 7 to 11 and want to find out more then come to our Alpha Night Special on Tuesday 10th February at the youth office, 47 High Street. Of course there will be lots of food and it's free so come along, bring a friend and find out what it is all about!

The Youth Team

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those living in Westhill Close, Westrop, The Willows, Windrush, Wrde Hill, and for all who attend, work or help at Westrop School

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled, praying especially for Yvonne Beck, Lonna Bowie, Bob Bromberg, Leonard Cheesley, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Lesley Evans, Arthur Francis, Kim Fulgoni, Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Timothy James, Julia Riggs, Mick Sellar, Betty Taber

...all those who are recently bereaved, praying especially for those who love and miss Pat Bennett, Mervyn Hancock, Lesley Hibbert

Enthroned on our Praises

You are invited, with The Church in Swindon, to Stratton Green Baptist Church in Swindon Road for the first of what are planned to be weekly worship meetings on 6th February at 7.30pm. The focus will be Jesus Christ and to lift him up on our praises, to draw near to God so that he may draw near to us, to be open to new ways and expressions of worship. There will be no official end time for the meeting so as to give the Holy Spirit complete freedom to lead. The contact is Rachel Crayford, email her on rachel.crayford@bunce.co.uk

BCP & T

The next BCP&T service will be on Sunday 1st March at 3.00pm - please make a note in your diary - there will be more details to follow. **Esmé Buller**

PRAYER

Holy and Almighty God,
whose most beloved Son was this day presented in the temple;
grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts.
As you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who waited for coming of the Messiah;

may we prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life.

Amen

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 1st February 2009

Obedience and faithfulness

Have you ever thought life was going nowhere? Are we doing the same things over and over like Bill Murray in the film Groundhog Day.

Do we always want things to change, get better, move along...

Today's reading gives us a wonderful insight into God's timing, His priorities and how, through obedience and 'waiting', we can share God's plan and glory.

Simeon had waited, we are told that he knew, through the Holy Spirit, that he would not die before he had seen God's saviour for Israel. Why Simeon and not the high priest? An insight into the fact that God holds the obedient, the faithful, the ordinary higher than those the world honours.

The blessing of the child and pronouncement were awe-inspiring. Anna, the prophetess, who had also served faithfully and long, was there too. When she saw what happened she ran around telling everyone.

So, how obedient to God's law, the leading of the Holy Spirit are we? Waiting impatiently for the answer to our worship needs to be answered?

Perhaps we actually need to think again about the prayer and fasting that Geoff, our vicar, has discerned as needed to see us through this time.

Be obedient, be faithful and wait. Sometimes we have to wait because God knows we need to rest, to re-energise and prioritise.

Then, like our reading, we need to be willing to share Jesus, share the good news of God when we see it in our lives. You don't have to wait for a major miracle to share, just the ordinary, the faithful, the obedient.

An old poster said "Discipline and prayer, sets you free". How true. Amen.

Rob Stewart

Our readings today are

Hebrews 2:14-18 (pew bible p1202)

Luke 2:22-40 (pew bible p1028)

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