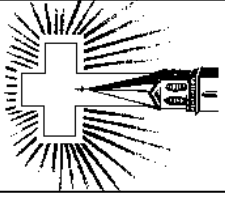


SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 22nd February 2009, Sunday before Lent

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, David Day
 10.00am Parish Communion, David Day/Hilary Fortnam
 6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
 10.30am Morning Worship, Jean Ashton
 Blunsdon 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, John Rees
 10.00am Family Worship, John Rees/Rachel Cook

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 1st March 2009, 1st Sunday in Lent/St David

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden/Arthur Woo
 10.00am Morning Worship, Arthur Woo/Lesley Uzzell
 3.00pm BCP and T, Arthur Woo/Esmé Buller
 6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo/Rachel Cook
 Sevenhampton 6.00pm Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
 Hannington 10.30am Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Communion, John Rees



Ash Wednesday - 25th February

Identified as being the day after Pancake day, it is in fact a very important date in the Church's year as it is the first day of Lent, when we begin to think about Jesus' lonely walk to the Cross. Our service of Holy Communion with hymns is at 7.30pm at St James' Church, Sevenhampton. Please let Rosie in the office know if you would like a lift (762702).
Hilary Fortnam

MOTHERS' UNION

MU meets on Thursday, starting with Holy Communion in Church at 10.00am. After the service, we will go to the Church Room for coffee and our meeting. This month's speakers are Hilary and Alf Fortnam with an illustrated talk entitled 'Ancient ports of Western Europe'. Everyone is welcome.
Anne Rees

The Saltmine Theatre Company will be appearing in *'Looking Good, Being Bad'* together with **Adrian Plass** at Christ Church Swindon on Friday 27th February at 7.30pm. This is based on a new book by Adrian, to be published very soon. Described as 'Comedy, theatre and churchmanship - all in one hilarious and thought provoking evening'. Tickets £8, concessions £7, are available from the Lighthouse Bookshop.
Malcolm Swift

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 23rd 9.00am Watercolour group, church room, till 3.00pm
 9.30am Prayers in the chancel - all are welcome
 10.00am Monday daytime fellowship (venue? contact Bella 762010)
 1.00pm Westrop School in church
 8.00pm Easter planning meeting, church room
 Tue 24th Church Office closed today
 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
 10.00am Tuesday Daytime Fellowship, 40 Bydemill Gdns (Lynn 763197)
 1.00pm Westrop School in church
 2.30pm Seeker's Light in the Cullerne Room
 9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room
 9.30am Little Fishes, Cullerne Room and Chancel
 12.30pm Lent Lunches, Methodist Church
 1.00pm Funeral of Dorothy (Diane) Brown in church
 7.00pm Pilates in the Church Room
 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion, St James' Sevenhampton
 7.30pm Fabric Committee in church
 Thu 26th 10.00am Holy Communion, Warneford Chapel in church
 10.40am Mothers' Union in the church room
 7.00pm Alpha in the Church Room
 7.30pm Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
 8.00pm Thursday Fellowship, 5 The Paddocks (Katie/Neil 823889)
 Fri 27th 2.00pm Funeral of Ernest Seville at Kingsdown
 7.00pm Choir Practice
 Sat 28th 7.30pm 'Looking Good Being Bad' Christ Church Swindon
 10.00am Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
 Sun 1 Mar 2.00pm Church Room booked for private hire till 4.30pm

NEW DATE for the CHURCH FAMILY 'JUST FOR FUN' QUIZ NIGHT

The new date is Saturday 14th March 2009, at St Michael's church hall at 7.00pm. We hope all of the nine teams who have already entered will be able to make the new date - and we still have room for a few more teams! More details from **Rosie** or **Lesley P**

Worship Review - Views sought from long standing members of our Church

The group reviewing our corporate worship would be very pleased to hear the views of those who come regularly to the 10.00am service and have been long standing members of our congregation. If you are free on Saturday 28th February at 11.30am do please come to the Cullerne Room in Church. Many thanks,
Geoff

CHANGE TO MIDWEEK SERVICES

We have had a trial period of swapping our midweek 10.00am services from Wednesday to Thursday, but unfortunately this has not proved successful, so from March onwards we shall have just one midweek service each month. This will be on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10.00am when we will celebrate Holy Communion with the Mothers' Union. Please see bulletin for reminders. Everyone will be welcome. **Hilary Fortnam**

CIARA'S COFFEE MORNING - on Saturday 7th March the coffee morning will be in aid of the National Children's Orchestra. Offers of cakes or bric-a-brac to Marcia Northeast or Lesley Page please.

LENT LUNCHESES start on Wednesday in HMC and St Michael's take their turn preparing and serving on the 4th March. I would be grateful for some willing helpers. The soup making is already organised but if you can help with getting ready, serving and clearing up please contact **Lesley P.** Thank you

THE CHURCH SERVICE ROTA is in the letter rack for those who need one and don't receive it electronically – please check for your copy.
Rosie

CRB SIGNING SESSION

The Diocesan checker will be coming to St Michael's on Wednesday 4th March, so there is still time to get your form completed ready. Please contact **Lesley Uzzell** for a time slot or details of how to get your form.

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those living in
Bute Close, Bydemill Gardens,
Cherry Orchard, Church View,
Cobbett Court and Copper Beeches

PRAYER

Loving Lord, let your light shine in our lives, let its brightness fill our hearts and transfigure us; that, seeing your glory, we may come to you in awe and wonder, and gazing on you may be changed into your likeness, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

CALLING FIRST AIDERS - If you hold a current first aid qualification (one that is less than three years old) and are willing to be on St Michael's first aider list, please contact **Ruth Hubbard** who is putting together the register for use by all groups.

BCP & T - 1st MARCH - 3pm

Our 'seniors' really look forward to this service and being able to have tea with their old friends. If you could help with cakes etc, transport or serving it would be much appreciated. Please telephone **Esmé Buller**

CAN YOU HELP? St John's church Haydon Wick have a church day on March 7th 9-12 and need help with their children's work so that JAM spread can have a break. JAM helped with our away day so if anyone can help with this please contact **Rachel Cook**.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled,
praying especially for
Yvonne Beck, Lorna Bowie, Bob Bromberg, Leonard Cheesley, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Lesley Evans, Arthur Francis, Kim Fulgoni, Peter Gibbs, Syd Hubbard, Timothy James, Julia Riggs, Mick Sellar, Betty Taber
...all those who are recently bereaved,
praying especially for those who love and miss
Diane Brown, Ernest Seville, Queenie Uzzell

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 22nd February 2009

**A glimpse of glory
Mark 9: 2-9**

The disciples watched (open-mouthed probably) as Jesus face was transfigured before them. It must have been an incredible experience taking their breath away. Peter would remember it all his life and he talks of it in 2 Peter 1:16-18. Peter's immediate reaction however, is to feel that he has to do something in response to what he sees.

We too live in an age of 'doing'. We tend to measure people's worth by what they do. In our churches as well as society in general, there seems to be a frantic degree of activity as we rush round busily doing things. Of course there is and always will be, a lot of work to be done for the Kingdom, and we can be sure we will be called to play our part, but we also need to take time out with God focussing and listening to Him.

When we spend time with God, we too will be transformed, made into the people He wants us to be, to do the tasks He has for each of us. It won't happen if we dash into His presence with our own agenda and start talking at God instead of focussing on His glory.

Three phrases in the passage could be a subject for meditation as we approach Lent:

1. Listen to Him - a good motto for our prayers and living.
2. 'They no longer saw anyone but Jesus - Focus on Him alone.
3. 'Not to tell anyone until the Son of Man has risen' - Don't tell until..... Not don't tell ever.

Hilary Fortnam

Our readings today are

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (pew bible p1160) Mark 9:2-9 (pew bible p1012)

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