

SOME EVENTS AT HMC

Advance notice for some events at the Methodist Church:

2nd May 7.30pm speaker Stuart Burgess on 'The Origin of Beauty' - evidence for biblical creation

16th May 8.30am Men's Breakfast - speaker Gerard Chrispin, former General Director of Daylight Christian Prison Trust and Christian Writer

16th May 7.30pm speaker Gerard Chrispin on 'How Can God Allow Suffering'

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFIT

This week we pray for those who live in Oak Drive, Orange Close, The Paddock, Park Avenue, Parsonage Court and Pentylands Close

PRAYER

Blessed be the risen Lord!
My Lord and my God, rising from the grave you broke the power of death and condemned death itself to die.
Meet us, we pray, as you met with your disciples long ago, speak our names quietly in our hearts and resurrect in our lives faith, hope and love.
Pour out on us your blessings, as we believe who have not seen.
Blessed be the risen Lord!

Amen

TRAINING SESSION

Calling all involved or interested in children and young people's ministry at St Michael's!!!

Dan Jones (the Bristol Diocesan Children and Youth Ministry trainer) is coming to St Michael's to provide us with some training alongside a chance to be refreshed and explore some new ideas to support our ministry.

PLEASE do come along to find out more, meet with friends, explore some new resources and of course, to have tea and cake!!!!

When??? Saturday 25th April

Where??? St Michael's church rooms

What time??? 2-4pm

For more information, please contact

Katie James

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 Russell Wood

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

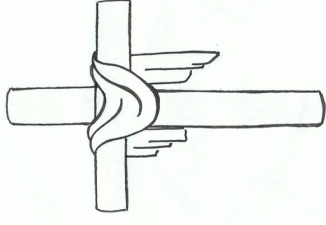
All Ministry Enquiries - Rev Geoff Sowden (day off Friday) telephone 01793-765554

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 19th April 2009

Even Better Blessings

Today's gospel reading begins with John's 'Pentecost' - Jesus comes to the disciples, locked away in fear, breathes on them and gives them his Holy Spirit, telling them that they are to be peace and love and forgiveness in the world.

But Thomas, not hidden away with the disciples that time, finds that whilst out on an errand he has missed Jesus' appearance to the others. How did he feel? He too wanted the same experience the others had - to see and touch the risen Christ for himself. Not really a doubter then, any more than the other disciples. Interestingly the disciples, a week after they had seen Jesus in body following the resurrection and receiving the Holy Spirit, were still locking themselves away. But this time Thomas was there too, and his reaction on seeing the Lord was different - he recognised Jesus as "My Lord and my God". Perhaps this was the first time Thomas had seen Jesus properly - not just the man but the truth of Jesus and of who Jesus was for him.

"To see him with the heart is to know that in the long run his kind of life is the only life worth living. To see him with the heart is not only to believe in him but little by little to become bearers to each other of his healing life until we become finally healed and whole and alive within ourselves. To see him with the heart is to take heart, to grow true hearts, brave hearts, at last" (Frederick Buechner)

This story of Thomas is a message from John for the people of a generation after the events themselves, for those who had not seen the risen Jesus for themselves and whose faith was based not on what they had seen with their own eyes but on what they had heard. And so Jesus is talking to those people, and to us today, when he says (in The Message version):

"Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing".

Lesley Uzzell

Our readings today are

Acts 4:32-35 (pew bible p1096)

John 20:19-31 (pew bible p1089)

Please join us for refreshments after the 10am service today

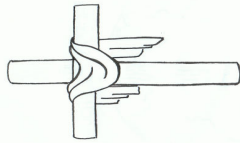
If you prefer not to take alcohol, alcohol-free wine is available at our communion services - please take a pink card from a steward and ensure it is visible as you come for communion

SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 19th April 2009, Easter 2

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, David Day
 10.00am Morning Worship and thanksgiving. Arthur Woo
 Sevenhampton 6.00pm Shared Choral Evensong, Arthur Woo
 Hannington 10.30am Matins BCP, John Godfree
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Communion, John Rees/Katherine Dack
 Newburgh 7.30pm Evening Worship, Jean Ashton

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 26th April 2009, Easter 3

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden/Hilary Fortnam
 10.00am Parish Communion, Geoff Sowden/Hilary Fortnam
 2.00pm Baptism of Aston Millard-Wall and Kacey Coles
 6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
 Sevenhampton 6.00pm Shared Choral Evensong, Arthur Woo
 Hannington 10.30am Morning Worship, Phil Bradley
 Blunsdon 8.00am Morning Prayer, Arthur Woo



HOLIDAY CLUB 2009

This year's Holiday Club dates are **17-21 August**.

The theme will be 'Landlubbers' - pirates searching for hidden treasure on a desert island who eventually discover the greatest treasure of all - knowing Jesus.

The Club will run 10am-12.30pm each day. If you are able to be involved please contact **Lesley Uzzell** (765050). We have need of group leaders, group helpers, crèche helpers, registration, refreshments, craft helpers, teenage helpers and a team of folk to pray. This year both infants and juniors will be together in the Methodist church, so everyone will be working closely together.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Prayers in church - all welcome
 Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
 Monday daytime fellowship (venue? contact Bella 762010)
 Pilates in the Church Room
 Tuesday Daytime Fellowship, 14 Brookfield (Lynn 763197)
 Magazine Working Party, Cullerne Room
 Tuesday Fellowship, 5 The Willows (Allan 762721)
 Music Bugs, Church Room
 Little Fishes, Cullerne Room and Chancel
 Pilates in the Church Room
 Holy Communion in church with MU
 Mothers' Union, Church Room
 Funeral of Russel Wood in Church
 Highworth Evening WI, Church Room
 Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
 Choir Practice
 Christian Aid supper with CA speaker, Church Room
 Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
 Children and Youth Leader training, Church Room
 Open Public Meeting at Northview School
 Rehearsal for Mayor's Charity Evening in church

AN INVITATION TO SUPPER

The Christian Aid committee invite you to a Supper Evening in the Church Room on Friday 24th April at 7.30pm. There will be a light meal of soup, bread and cheese followed by a talk on the work of Christian Aid. Our speaker will be Adam Gardener, a Christian Aid youth worker, who will talk about his experiences with partner organisations in the Congo. It will be especially interesting to our Christian Aid Week helpers. RSVP by signing the list in church or just turn up on the night.

Tricia & Peter Croton

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll has now been updated for 2009, and the new Roll is on display on the oak chest. Please check the Roll and ensure that your entry is correct. The Electoral Roll is now closed until the APCM on 27th April, when applications can again be made. If you have any queries on the Electoral Roll please contact the Electoral Roll Officer, **Lesley Uzzell**, on 765050.

PRAY FOR SCHOOLS

- A really exciting opportunity to join with others across the town in supporting Christian students and staff in our schools. Tuesday 5th May, 6.30pm-8.30pm, at Gateway Church, Trinity Centre, Stonehill Green, Westlea. *Pray for Schools* is an exciting new initiative, encouraging Christians to hold events that will increase prayer for schools in their area. The heart of the vision is to make 'every school a prayed for school' and is a joint venture between several Christian organisations.

APCM IN CHURCH - Please come

Monday 27th April, 7.30pm

Our Vision and Change

Speakers: Bishop Lee and Geoff

MOTHERS' UNION

- MU meets this Thursday, starting with Holy Communion in Church at 10.00am. After the service, we will go to the Church Room for coffee and cake, which will support the Children's Society St George's Day Bake and Brew fundraising event. After refreshments, our speaker will be Sarah Wyman, the MU Bristol Diocesan Faith and Policy coordinator. Her talk is entitled "What is worship?" Everyone is welcome.

Anne Rees