

PRAY FOR SCHOOLS

This is an exciting opportunity to join with others across the town in supporting Christian students and staff in our schools. The first meeting is on Tuesday 5th May, 6.30pm-8.30pm, at Gateway Church, Trinity Centre, Westlea. The heart of the *Pray for Schools* vision is to make 'every school a prayed for school' and is a joint venture between several Christian organisations.

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in Redlands Court, The Retreat, Rivers Way, Roman Way, St Michael's Avenue, and for those who live in Sevenhampton village

PRAYER

Sovereign God,
Teach me what it means to love you
with body, soul and mind
And help me to be as committed to you
as you are to me.
Show me that it is not I that chose you,
but you who have chosen me,
Given me the right to eternal life with
you,
Even before I was made,
Holy Lord, I praise you.
Amen

METHODIST EVENTS

- **The National Methodist Youth Brass Band** will play at Bath Road Methodist Church, Swindon, on Saturday 16th May, 2009 at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00 (or children & YP £2.50) from: David Gibbs or June Rhodes. Proceeds in aid of the local NSPCC and Methodist Relief & Development Fund
- HMC invite you to a **Men's Breakfast** at the Methodist Church, 8:30am on 16th May with speaker Gerard Chrispin, former General Director of Daylight Christian Prison Trust and Christian Writer
- A helpful and challenging talk '**How Can God Allow Suffering?**' followed by question and answer session, at the Methodist Church, 7.00pm on Saturday 16th May with speaker Gerard Chrispin former General Director of Daylight Christian Prison Trust & Christian Writer.

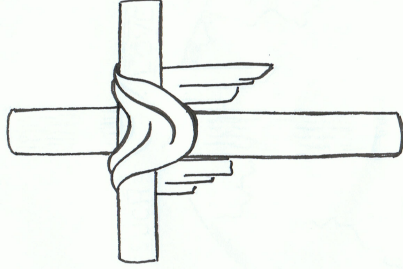
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...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 Stephen Ridge and 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 3rd May 2009

Who does the Church belong to?

We are chosen and belong to God, to declare his praises.

Can you remember a time when you were chosen, perhaps because of a skill you possess, or perhaps it was your turn. The joy and excitement was tremendous, but of course it doesn't last long does it. The joy is sadly short lived. I wonder how long Susan Boyle will spend in the limelight having been chosen?

Our passage today speaks of us being chosen for something that by comparison puts any other reason completely in the shade. Chosen by God, for now and into eternity, to be in his presence, with continual access to him. We have been chosen and called, so that we can tell of how wonderful God is. How he has called us out from the darkness of sin, into his wonderful light.

That is the calling for St Michael's and for each of us, chosen by God. What a joy and a privilege, to be able to celebrate being in God's presence, to enjoy him and praise him. I wonder if some of us are missing out though. Wondering if we really have been chosen, perhaps being afraid of what might lie ahead and preferring to stay where we are. What a shame, what are we missing out on?

How then can we be certain, to be encouraged to walk in God's presence day by day? Precisely because we have been chosen, though not for anything we have done or are, but through what Jesus has done for us.

Geoff Sowden

Our readings today are

1 Peter 2: 9-10 (pew bible p1218)

John 15: 1-7 (pew bible p1083)

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 3rd May 2009, Easter 4

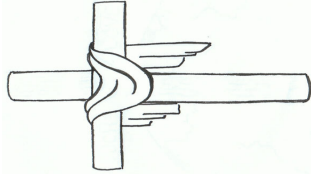
Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
 9.00am Church Breakfast, Church Room
 10.00am All Age Worship with baptism and welcomes,
 Geoff Sowden/Rachel Cook

6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
 Sevenhampton 9.00am Holy Communion BCP and baptism, Geoff Sowden
 Hannington 10.30am Holy Communion CW, David Day
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Communion, John Rees

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 10th May 2009, Easter 5

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden/Luke Walton
 10.00am Parish Communion and Christian Aid Commissioning,
 Geoff Sowden/Luke Walton

2.00pm Baptism of Lois and Isabelle Floy
 6.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
 Hannington 10.30am Morning Worship, Arthur Woo
 Blunsdon 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
 10.00am Family Worship, Jane Ockwell
 6.30pm Evensong, John Rees
 Grove Hill 7.30pm Evening Service, tbc



God chose me, Christ died for me

CHURCH BREAKFAST – TODAY, 9.00am,

Church Room – all are welcome

TODAY

...we welcome to St Michael's at 10.00am the family and friends of Coco French, as she comes for baptism, and we also welcome the families of Karen Wood and Mason Pepperell, Aston Millard-Wall and Kacey Coles as they come to be welcomed into the family of St Michael's following their recent baptisms.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 4th 9.30am Prayers in church - all welcome
 10.00am Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
 10.00am Monday daytime fellowship (venue? contact Bella)
 Tue 5th 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
 10.00am Tuesday Daytime Fellowship, (venue? Contact Lynn)
 6.30pm Pray for Schools, Westlea - see back page
 8.00pm Tuesday Fellowship, 5 The Willows (Allan)
 Wed 6th 9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room
 9.30am Little Fishes, Cullerne Room and Chancel
 7.00pm Pilates in the Church Room
 8.00pm Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Green (Wendy)
 Thu 7th 7.30pm Bellingring practice, Bell Tower
 Fri 8th 7.00pm Choir Practice
 Sat 9th 10.00am Flower Guild Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room

PRAYER FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

The next time of prayer for our corporate worship will be held in church on **Monday 11th May** (not this week due to Bank Holiday). There will be three sessions: 10.00am-11.00am and 3.30pm-4.30pm (these sessions will be suitable for those with children), and 7.00pm-8.00pm. These times will all be led in prayer. Please come to one if you can, if you are not able to then please pray with us at home.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to everyone who supported the coffee morning last week in any way - helping, baking, spending money. £123.60 was raised for The Children's Society. Thank you,
Janet Livall and Heather Gunn

AMATEUR SLEUTH?

Come and solve our **Murder Mystery Play** performed by West Huntspill Players, enjoy a gourmet three course meal plus coffee and mints on Saturday 30th May, 7pm for 7:30pm start in St. Michael's Hall. Tickets are £20 per person, dress code smart - no jeans please. All profits to support Highworth Methodist Church Laywork and African children in Kenya. For more information, please speak to **Anne Drew** or **Sandra Cox** booking forms available at the Methodist Church or the Lighthouse Bookshop.

FLOWERS IN FRANCE

The flower ladies are holding a coffee morning on 9th May in the Church Room to raise money towards the flowers they are going to use to decorate L'eglise de Notre Dame in Pontorson (the town Highworth is twinned with in Normandy). This is the fourth time we have decorated the church and the locals really appreciate our efforts. We get a lot of coverage in the local media. This year Highworth Choral Society will be performing too so it will be an extra special occasion. Do please support us by coming along at 10.00am on Saturday 9th May. Many thanks.
Joan Craigie

TODAY

...we welcome to St James' Sevenhampton at 9.00am the family and friends of Emma Morgan, as they bring Emma to be baptised and welcomed into the family of St James' and the extended family of St Michael's.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2009

Christian Aid Week is 10th-16th May and we are looking for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collections. If you can help please sign the lists in church or contact us.
Tricia and Peter Croton

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS

It is a joy to stay after the 10.00am service to enjoy fellowship and banter with a hot drink and a biscuit to keep you going till lunch. But it doesn't just happen - there is a rota of lovely people who make the drinks, get the biccies and wash up too. If you feel able to join this group there are some spaces on the rota - you should only be 'on' every six weeks, less if more people can help! IF you would like to help, please contact **Janet Livall**