

CONFIRMATION

St Michael's is having a Confirmation Service in November and Geoff or Rosie would be pleased to hear from anybody who is interested in discussing this or thinking about becoming confirmed.

WILLOWS COUNSELLING SERVICE

We are moving! From 20 May we will be at The Willows Centre, 11 Prospect Place, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 3LQ.
Telephone: 01793 426650.
Email: willows@willowscounselling.org.uk

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in Station Road, Stonefield Drive, Stranks Close, Stroma Way, Swindon Road and for all who attend, work or help at Southfield School

PRAYER

Gracious God
Help us, we pray, to be fully involved in this world
and yet to live also in the light of the world to come,
so may our lives bear witness to your sovereign purpose
and to your saving love.
In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen

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. Please book by **24th May**.

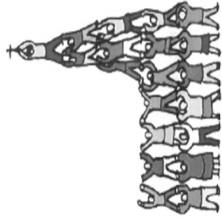
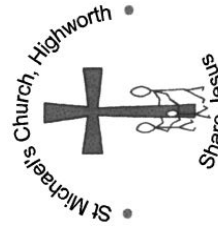
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...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 Michael Ockwell

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 17th May 2009

What is the Church For? To be and reflect God - through Jesus

Peter describes the church as Living Stones (us) coming together as a Spiritual House with Christ as the Cornerstone (which is the first stone to be laid in the foundation of a house - it has to be true as it determines the formation of the house). It is clear that the church is not a building made of bricks and mortar but made of people. It is a vibrant community - which is what 'living' means.

So how can the church be and reflect God. Communities are formed where groups of people have something in common such as where they live (e.g. Highworth), work, football team they support, family etc. The Christian Church has faith in Jesus Christ in common and much much more. The marks of a community include supporting each other, sense of belonging, sharing and fellowship which are to be found in a church. Vitrally the church has Christ to bring us together despite our differences in needs and wants - church can be a trying place but when focussing on Christ, we can live together in unity - and be God in this world.

Unity in Christ is important to enable us to reflect God (enable others to see Christ) to those outside of our Christian Community, as a vibrant community will be attractive to others. However in order to achieve unity with each other to reflect God outwardly, we need to engage with God through Christ - otherwise known as a spiritual sacrifice of worship. This can be on our own or as Peter describes in the reading, with others in community. The church requires communion with others as the implication is that we are built alongside each other around the corner stone, so fellowship is vital to us for our Spiritual Growth.

In conclusion, the church is to be God in this world as a community in unity, to reflect God outwardly to others and engage with God in worship, but it is only possible if we make Christ number one as a church, and sacrifice our own wants.

Phil Bradley

Our readings today are

1 Peter 2:4-8 (pew bible p1218)

Matthew 22:34-40 (pew bible p991)

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

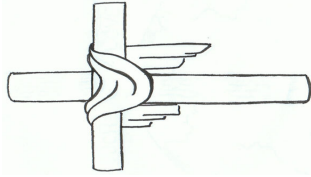
SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 17th May 2009, Easter 6

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, David Day
 10.00am Morning Worship & welcomes, Phil Bradley/Lesley Page
 2.00pm Baptism of Deanne, Daniel, Matthew & Charlotte Chivers
 6.30pm Shared choral evensong, **Blunsdon**, Jean Ashton

Hannington 10.30am Rogation Service, Geoff Sowden

Blunsdon 10.00am Family Communion. John Rees/Katherine Dack
 6.30pm Shared choral evensong, Jean Ashton

Newburgh 7.30pm Holy Communion, Hilary Fortnam



SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 24th May 2009, Easter 7

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Sam Rushton
 10.00am Benefice Morning Worship, Sam Rushton

Blunsdon 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Allan Bucknall
 10.00am Family Worship, Arthur Woo

NEXT WEEK

We will be welcoming Sam Rushton back to St Michael's to preach at our morning services. The theme of our services next Sunday morning is 'Vocations - Hearing God's Call'.

ASCENSION DAY 21ST MAY

Ascension Day falls next Thursday 21st May, and, although one of the Church's major festivals, it is often overlooked in the busyness of life. It falls 40 days after Easter signifying that the Easter season is coming to an end, and is 10 days before Pentecost - the birthday of the Church. Our Benefice Ascension Day service this year will be in St Leonard's Blunsdon on Thursday 21st May at 7.30pm. Please tell Rosie if you would like a lift.
Hilary Fortnam

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 18th 9.30am Prayers in church - all are welcome
 10.00am Monday daytime fellowship (venue? contact Bella)
 7.00pm Highworth Choral Society rehearsal in church
 7.30pm PCC in the Church Room
 Tue 19th 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
 10.00am Tuesday daytime fellowship, 34 Eastrop (Lynn)
 8.00pm Tuesday Fellowship, 5 The Willows (Allan)
 Wed 20th 9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room
 9.30am Little Fishes, Cullerne Room and Chancel
 1.00pm Funeral of Michael Ockwell at St Leonard's
 7.00pm Pilates in the Church Room
 Thu 21st 7.30pm Bellingring practice, Bell Tower
 7.30pm Ascension Day Holy Communion, St Leonard's Blunsdon, Geoff
 7.45pm ICC at The Bridge
 Fri 22nd 7.00pm Choir Practice
 Sat 23rd 10.00am Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
 2.00pm Church Room booked for private hire until 5.00pm
 Sun 24th Please return all Christian Aid collections by today

ARTHUR'S ORDINATION

Arthur will be ordained priest at Bristol Cathedral on 27th June, at 3.30pm. There is a sheet on the chest for people to sign if they would like a seat on the coach - likely times are leaving Highworth 1.30pm and leaving Bristol 5.30pm approximately. Cost depends on numbers going!
 Do also remember that the following day Sunday 28th June there will be a garden party to celebrate with Arthur and Lynn at the Vicarage after the 10.00am service. Bring a picnic and enjoy good fellowship and fun and if we're lucky the social committee might lay something on too!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2009

Thank-you to all our collectors for your hard work this past week. Please return your collections to church by next Sunday please, not to the Lighthouse. We will announce the results as soon as the count is done.
Tricia and Peter Croton

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS

Come on everyone - do you really want Sunday morning coffee to stop, or be reduced to perhaps every other week? If you feel able to join the group who make the drinks and do your washing up there are some spaces on the rota - it works out about once every six weeks or so. Please contact **Janet Livall** to offer your help.

TEARFUND COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning on Saturday June 6th in the church room will be in aid of TEARfund, supporting Christian action with the world's poor. There will be a cake stall and Bric-a-brac, all donations welcome, please contact **Helen**

FLOWERS IN FRANCE

A big 'thank you' to everyone who attended or helped in any way at the coffee morning last week. The sum of £85.10 was raised and this will go towards the cost of the flowers we shall use to decorate the church in Pontorson.

Joan Craigie