

WILTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST RIDE AND STRIDE



This year the Wilts Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride falls on Saturday 12th September, please do think about taking part to raise money for St Michael's. Take a stroll along a footpath to the nearest church, or cycle to many.

We also need people to man the church for an hour or so to welcome in cyclists and walkers.

A list will be on the chest in church for you to put your name on for a stint.

For more information or sponsorship forms please contact **Jenny Hanfrey**



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 all those who live in Sevenhampton village

PRAYER

Almighty God,

You are always more ready to hear us than we are to pray, to give more than we desire or deserve:

Pour down on us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which we are ashamed, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray

Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled, praying especially for Lorna Bowie, Bob Bromberg, Joyce Corrigan, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Gwen Drew, Hilary Fortnam, Kim Fulgoni, Joan Furlonger, Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Janet Livall, Keith Lodwick, Carole Richmond, Julia Riggs, Betty Taber

...all those who are recently bereaved, praying especially for those who love and miss Leonard Cheesley, Ellen Inns, Mick Sellar

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) - Rosie Castle, 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 30th August 2009

Celebrating Holiday Club

Story goes of a cobbler's son and a girl of noble birth. As children they pledge to marry and exchange rings. When he grows up, the cobbler's son wants to be sure of girl's love; he feels a need to be able to prove he is worthy of her love, and to do something to earn it.

So he goes off to the army, but proves to be a coward and is discharged in disgrace.

He then tries his hand at business, but goes bankrupt. Finally he attends University, but fails his exams.

The cobbler's son comes home feeling a failure, 'she won't want me now', he says to himself.

But the girl says to him, 'I loved you then, I still love you, no matter what you have done. Just accept my love, you have no need to prove my love.'

God's love is of grace, it is totally undeserved, and we can do nothing to earn it, or prove it.

For the Pharisees though, God's love had to be earned, through the upkeep of rules and traditions. Jesus said to them, the traditions of themselves are not a problem, but they are if they get in the way of your relationship of the heart with God. God's commandments in the law were designed as a sign of response to God for his grace; they were not pre-conditions for the relationship.

What does this mean for us?

- Our worship should be based on what God requires, not human tradition. V7.
- Our worship should be based on purity of heart, not just external morality. V6.

Geoff Sowden

Our readings today are

James 1:17-27 (pew bible page 1213)

Mark 7:1-8 (pew bible p1010)

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 30th August 2009, Trinity 12

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden
 10.00am Family Communion, Geoff Sowden

Blunsdon 10.00am Morning Worship, John Rees



SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 6th September 2009, Trinity 13

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden
 9.00am Parish Breakfast, Church Room
 10.00am Morning Worship, Geoff Sowden

Sevenhampton 9.00am Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
 Hannington 10.30am Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Communion, John Rees/Kathryn Dack

COMMUNION

IN THE LIGHT OF SWINE FLU

The ministry team has decided that while swine flu remains in our community it would be right not to use the common cup for the distribution of wine at communion. This practice will remain until such time as it is judged that swine flu is no longer a danger within our community.

Wine will be distributed in the bread/wafer placed into the recipient's hands. I am sure everyone will understand the reasons for the adoption of this practice.

Geoff

ICC PRAYER GROUP

The monthly prayers resume this week after the summer break and will be in St. Michael's Church from 8-9 pm on Tuesday September 1st. This is a great opportunity to pray with members of all the churches in Highworth especially at the beginning of a new Academic year and when so many activities start up after the summer. It would be great to see many members of the St Michael's congregation supporting this important time together.



Anne Hinton

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 31st Bank Holiday
 No Prayer time in church
 No Ministry Team Meeting

Tue 1 Sep 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
 10.00am Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 14 Brookfield (Lynn 763197)
 2.30pm Seekers Light Trust meeting, Cullerne Room
 7.00pm Neighbourhood Watch, Church Room
 8.00pm ICC Prayers led by St Michael's at St Michael's

Wed 2nd 10.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard's Blunsdon
 10.00am Holy Communion, Middi Haines Court
 2.30pm Holy Communion, Grove Hill Nursing Home
 7.00pm Pilates in the Church Room
 8.00pm Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Green (Wendy 861122)
 8.00pm St Michael's Flower Guild, 2 The Elms

Thu 3rd 2.00pm MU Deanery Festival, Stratton St Margaret
 7.30pm Bellringing practice, Bell Tower

Fri 4th Church Office Closed Today
 7.00pm Choir Practice in Church

Sat 5th 10.00am Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room

Sun 6th 9.00am Parish Breakfast, Church Room
 2.00pm Church Room booked for private hire till 4.30pm

DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

Do you know what spiritual gift God has given you? The Network course will be running two parallel streams this autumn, both in St Michael's Chancel:

Evening Sessions

8:00pm-10:00pm
 #1 Wed Sept 30th
 #2 Wed Oct 14th
 #3 Wed Oct 21st

Daytime Sessions

12:30pm-2:30pm
 #1 Tues Oct 6th
 #2 Tues Oct 20th
 #3 Tues Nov 3rd



Contact Arthur or Lynn Woo or the Church Office (01793 762702) to register.

MOTHERS' UNION

Two reminders for MU members:
 1. The Deanery Festival service takes place on Thursday at 2.00pm at Stratton St Margaret Church. Please let me know if you can come and if you need a lift.
 2. Subscriptions for Families First magazine are now due. If you are a subscriber, or would like to be, please let me have £9 as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Anne Rees

PARISH BREAKFAST - Following our summer break, Parish Breakfast will re-start next week, Sunday 6th September. We would welcome new faces at the table for food and fellowship.

Ian Miller

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FLOWER GUILD

A meeting of the Church Flower Guild will be held on Wednesday, 2nd September at 8pm at Barbara Lawton's home, Hurst Cottage, 2 The Elms. Everyone involved with church flowers is invited to attend, as we shall be discussing Harvest flowers.

Barbara Lawton