

### **WOMEN'S DAY CONFERENCE**

at Freshbrook Evangelical Church, Worsley Road, Swindon SN5 8NU. Know Your Bible - transforming women's lives through the power of God's Word - present a one-day conference on **The Life of Promise on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**, 9.45am - 2.30pm (crèche available). The Speaker will be Joy McIver from New South Wales, Australia. For more details or to book the crèche contact daphne.bateman @ talktalk.net

[www.knowyourbible.org.uk](http://www.knowyourbible.org.uk)

### **BIBLE TEACHING DAY**

Upper Thames Methodist Circuit invite you to their Fourth Annual Bible Teaching Day, on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 from 10.30am-3.30pm at Highworth Methodist Church. This year we have Rev Paul Smith teaching from John's Gospel chapters 14, 15 and 16 - 'I need to tell you before I go - Jesus' final teaching before the Cross'.

The day will include 4 main teaching sessions in the context of Prayer, Praise and Worship. Drinks will be provided - please bring your own lunch. More information from Rev John Wiltshire, telephone or email JohnWiltshire10 @ tiscali.co.uk

**John Wiltshire**



### **Week beginning Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

#### **Crumbs from the children's table Mark 7: 24-end**

She was a Gentile woman and Jesus should not really have spoken to her at all. His reply to her request suggests He was keen to end the conversation as rapidly as possible. This was not what the woman had hoped for.

Jesus was aware He was there for the people who saw themselves as God's special children, and the derogatory word they used for Gentiles was 'dogs'. But Jesus uses a different Greek word meaning puppy and these animals were fed, but after the children had eaten.

The woman was desperate and quick-witted, but she kneels at His feet in attitude of worship. She understands Jesus reason but points out her request would not undermine them. She was willing to identify with dogs if her daughter's needs could be met.

This story is startling because Jesus allows this non-Jewish woman to let Him change His mind. In His dialogue with her, he even discusses theology with her. This is encouragement to us when we pray for others, to be focussed and persistent. And when healing doesn't come? This woman's faith encourages us to keep on asking as Jesus teaches His disciples to do, and to believe that one day we too will go home to find those crumbs have become a feast!

God does hear the cry of the humble - in human terms we are only Christians today because someone, sometime, heard God's call to go and take His good news to people who no-one else thought important. How humbling is that!

**Hilary Fortnam**

#### **Our readings today are**

James 2:1-10, 14-17 (pew bible page 1214) Mark 7:24-37 (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

### **PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE**

This week we pray for those who live in Sevenfields, Shrivensham Road, Skye Close, Spa Close, Stapleton Close, and for all who live or work on Sheep Street

### **PRAYER**

Precious Lord,  
Open our lives to your goodness  
Open our eyes to your presence  
Open our ears to your call  
Open our hearts to your love  
Open our lips to your praise  
Open us to your glory

**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 William Church BEM, Dorothy Eddey, Mrs Hare

### **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](mailto:stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk)  
Youth Ministry Enquiries - telephone 07983-507349 (day off Saturday)  
[www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

**SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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



**SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Trinity 14**

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
	10.00am	Family Communion, Geoff Sowden
	4.00pm	T Time Service, Geoff Sowden/Katie James
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, tba
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, Rob Stewart
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
	10.00am	Family Worship, Jane Ockwell
	6.30pm	Evensong, Peter Demmen
Grove Hill	7.30pm	Evening Service, Helen Weaver

**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**

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Prayer time in church - all are welcome
	10.00am	Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>		Church Office Closed Today
	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 34 Eastrop (Lynn)
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Music Bugs in the Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes in the chancel and Cullerne Room
	9.45am-2.30pm	Women's Day Conference - see back page
	7.00pm	Pilates in the Church Room
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	'One Only' in the Church Room
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Funeral of Mrs Hare at St Leonard's Blunsdon
	7.00pm	Choir Practice in Church
	7.30pm	Street Pastors Commissioning Service, Christchurch
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
	10.00am-all day	Wilts Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride

**PARISH BREAKFAST** - Following our summer break, Parish Breakfast will re-start this morning, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, in the Church Room between the 8.00am and 10.00am services. We would welcome new faces at the table for food and fellowship.

**Ian Miller**

**8 O'CLOCK STAYS THE SAME!!!**

Our pattern of worship at 8.00 will remain as it usually is, with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Common Worship services, and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from the Book of Common Prayer. A slight blip got into the Link! Please do tell anyone who has been concerned about this.

**Rosie Castle**

**WILTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

**RIDE AND STRIDE**

The Wilts Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride is next Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, there is still time to take part to raise money for St Michael's.

If you can't take part, we do also need people to man the church for an hour or so to welcome in cyclists and walkers to our church. A list is on the chest in church for you to volunteer for a stint.

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

**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 30<sup>th</sup>  
 #2 Wed Oct 14<sup>th</sup>  
 #3 Wed Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

**Daytime Sessions**

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



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

You are invited to the Swindon Street Pastors Commissioning Service on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Christchurch Old Town at 7.30pm to witness and celebrate the commissioning of our successful 2008/2009 trainee Street Pastors and hear more about The Ascension Trust Street Pastors initiative and developments and find out how you can join in this exciting Christian outreach