

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

A NETWORK MINISTRY RESOURCE
network

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

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in
Westhill Close, Westrop, The Willows, Windrush, Wrde Hill
and for all who attend, work or help at Westrop School

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you gave us your Holy Spirit to live in us until the time that you come again, to help us to live in this imperfect world in the way you want us to be.

Fill us again with that Spirit, that we may have the strength to overcome opposition and the love to show all those around us that you are the Lord

Help us to remain true to you whatever the world may think of us

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled,
praying especially for Lorna Bowie, Bob Bromberg, 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 Joyce Corrigan, Rose Giles, John Manners, Monica Marshall, Joyce Ryder

...those in Burkina Faso struggling to return to normality following the floods



Week beginning Sunday 27th September 2009



'But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth' (1 John 2:20)

'Remain in him' (1 John 2:27)

'...the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them'. (1 John 4:4)

How do we cope as followers of Jesus Christ in a world where there is some embarrassment or discomfort (not to say opposition) when individuals or churches express their faith and where normal Christian behaviour seems terribly "strait-laced" and old-fashioned? Where some unsound versions of the Christian faith are being touted to the believers? Where believers have been disciplined at work for expressing their faith?

Are we left isolated and sad and bewildered after the "tide" of Christianity which we once knew has gone out like starfish stranded on the beach?

John, in this week's readings from his letter is rather comforting. He speaks to the to bewildered believers: "No", he says, "it all happened. When you believed, God put his Holy Spirit on you so that you could understand and believe the truth. He will stop you going astray."

What about opposition to the good news of Jesus Christ? "...the one who is in you is greater than the one who is on the world". In other words, the Holy Spirit of God in you and me is more in control of things than Satan (John takes Satan very seriously but he's not frightened off by him).

John has a very "high" view of the church; I mean, he thinks of it as a community joined by love in obedience to Jesus Christ; he believes its members, the believers, are individually inspired by God.

And he sees God as very much in charge and undefeated.

So where does this leave you and me? Firstly, "Remain in him". Keep on in spite of the fact we may seem a trifle odd in the workplace and in the community. Secondly, we are able to carry on believing and (I hope) living as Christians because God in us is making us capable of faith and good living. It's his job, not ours. Don't be surprised at some opposition: it's built in to the way this imperfect world works (until that great day when God fixes it).

Invitation to Discuss

1. Read 1 John 2:18-27. Why do "all of you know the truth"?
2. "See that what you heard remains in you" (v24). What are the results of obeying this?
3. What are the problems with a faith in God which doesn't include Jesus? (v23)

Justin Griffith

Our readings today are

1 John 2: 18-27 (pew bible page 1226)

1 John 4: 1-6 (pew bible p1227)

Please join us for refreshments after the 10am and 4pm services 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

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

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

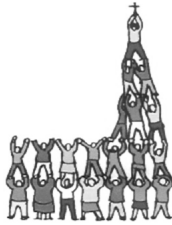
Church Office (Administration/General Enquiries) - Rosie Castle, tel 01793-762702 or email to stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk

Youth Ministry Enquiries - telephone 07983-507349 (day off Saturday)

www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 27th September 2009, Trinity 16

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Justin Griffith
	10.00am	Parish Communion, Geoff Sowden/Justin Griffith
	4.00pm	T Time Service, Justin Griffith/Stephen Fash
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship & Baptism, John Rees
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, John Rees
	10.00am	Family Worship, Arthur Woo

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 4th October 2009, Trinity 17**

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
	9.00am	Parish Breakfast, Church Room - all are welcome
	10.00am	Family Harvest Worship, Lesley Page/Richard Belsham
	2.30pm	BCP & T, Holy Communion & tea, Geoff Sowden/Esmé Buller
	4.30pm	All Age Harvest Communion, Geoff Sowden/Bella Fasham
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Sevenhampton	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Arthur Woo
Hannington	10.30am	Holy Communion CW, Arthur Woo
Blunsdon	10.00am	Holy Communion, John Rees/Kathryn Dack

**COMMUNION
IN THE LIGHT OF SWINE FLU**

While swine flu remains in 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

'LENT LUNCH' in aid of Burkina Faso flood relief to be held in the Church Room on Sunday 11th October when Alan and Pauline Ashmore will be with us for the day. Please make a note in your diary.

Rosie Castle

PARISH BREAKFAST - will be next Sunday, between the 8am and 10am services, in the Church Room. All are welcome, old and new!

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 28 th	9.30am	Prayer time in church - all are welcome
	9.30am	Watercolour Group in the Church Room until 3.00pm
	10.00am	Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
	12.00noon	Funeral of Joyce Ryder in Church
Tue 29 th	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 34 Eastrop (Lynn 763197)
	8.00pm	Tuesday Fellowship, 28 Barra Close (Rowena 764479)
Wed 30 th	9.30am	Music Bugs in the Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes in the chancel and Cullerne Room
	7.00pm	Pilates in the Church Room
	8.00pm	Network Course, Chancel
Thu 1 Oct	12.00noon	Funeral of John Manners in Church
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
Fri 2 nd	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
	2.00pm	Church Room booked for private hire until 6.00pm

HOLY COMMUNION BCP+T - The service of BCP+T on Sunday 4th October will be Holy Communion (BCP). Please note that the service will start at 2.30pm. Offers of help with food, serving or transport will be gratefully received by Esmé Buller

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE INVITE YOU TO
AN AUTUMN ENTERTAINMENT

AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL
9TH OCTOBER 2009 FROM 7.30PM
TICKETS £6.00

**COLD BUFFET SUPPER
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT by 'ENCORE'
RAFFLE**

Paté, cheese and assorted breads with homemade chutney, salads, nibbles
Fruit Punch (bring your own wine),
Tea/Coffee & Petit-fours/mints
Tickets from Rosie in the office (762702) or
Julia Bishop

ST MICHAEL'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

Services on Sunday 4th October, 10.00am and 4.30pm

This year we are supporting SWINDON FOOD BANK at our Harvest services, as you will see from the 'Shopping List' enclosed in the Bulletin this Christian charity serves the people of Swindon. Over the past few years we have supported many third world charities and missionary outreach but at this time of financial difficulties so near to home it is good to reach out to our neighbours in the Swindon area. Please bring your gifts to Church next Sunday 4th October and please make sure that they have a long shelf life. As you are doing the weekly shop perhaps you could buy one or two things from the shopping list, first remembering that in Matthew 26:45 Jesus said 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of these, you did not do for me'. Everybody is feeling the 'pinch' but one small extra purchase by you will mean a lot to a family with nothing. There is also a need for financial support and there are Gift Aid forms available in Church or on the Swindon Food Bank Website www.swindonfoodbank.co.uk which will also show you many other ways you can help.

Lesley Page

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Love and congratulations to Pat Smith, who celebrates her 80th Birthday today, from all at St Michael's.