

TODAY WE PRAY FOR THOSE BEING CONFIRMED AT ST MICHAEL'S

We welcome the families and friends of today's confirmation candidates, and we pray for all those being confirmed this afternoon at St Michael's - for those from St Philip's Upper Stratton; St Peter's Penhill; St John the Baptist & St Helen Wroughton; St John's Haydon Wick; St Andrew & St Francis North Swindon; All Saints, Christian Malford and St Michael and All Angels Highworth.

We pray for Stuart Ford, Hayley Tarrant, Nicky Tarrant, Fifii Woldd and Yvonne Woolford; Lisa Brewer, Sarah Long and Robin Smith; Colin Gill and Bob Whitfield; Emma Bessent, Louise Bessent, Stephen Bessent, Alice Keith and Daniel Mead; Jane Dunn; Charlotte Anne Wilkinson; Lawrence Ahafia, Robert Drayton and Sarah Griffin.

We pray for Iwona Smal of St Philip's being received from the Roman Catholic Church.
'Lord, bless these your servants, fill them with your Spirit and keep them close to you'



Week beginning Sunday 15th November 2009

When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. (Mark 13:7)

Many Christians through the ages, especially those who have suffered for their faith, have taken strength from this passage. Jesus warns his disciples of forthcoming persecution, of deceitful teachers, of many followers deserting the faith, times of doubt, and of frightening world events. His purpose is not to scare them, or to give them clues in order to determine the end times, but to reassure them that God's plan is working itself out, in spite of what may seem like the triumph of evil. The birth pangs which mark the end of the age is clear evidence of the new kingdom being brought into reality. In Mark's gospel, Christ's teaching is all but finished. All that is left for Christ is his death on a cross so that through his suffering, there might be the guarantee of new life in him.

For further reflection...

1. People are fascinated by the concept of armageddon, the end times. Great efforts have been made to predict the end of the world. Does not knowing worry you, and if it does, why? Is this the point of the passage, to be able to tell when the end will come?
2. In your experience, does suffering always precede new life?
3. Is the Kingdom worth hanging on for? (See Revelation 21)

Arthur Woo

Our readings today are:

Hebrews 10:11-14 (pew bible p1208)

Mark 13:1-8 (pew bible p1019)

Please join us for refreshments after our 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

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in Folly Crescent, Folly Drive, Folly Way, Gilmore Court, Glebe Place, Grange Close and The Green

COFFEE MORNING THANKS

The SSAFA Coffee Morning and Tabletop sale on Saturday 31st October raised £38.50 - so thank you very much to all who came.

Patricia Croton

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
You sent your Spirit to transform the Apostles into heroes of evangelical strength on the day of Pentecost. Thank You for granting that same Spirit to those being confirmed today. Pour down upon them the gifts of the Spirit that they may more closely resemble Jesus and be lifelong witnesses in the world to You and your Divine Son.

Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled,
praying especially for
Lorna Bowie, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Gwen Drew, Hilary Fortnam, Kim Fulgoni, 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
Trevor Chapman, Michael Moore

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

www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 15th November 2009, 2nd before Advent

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion CW, Arthur Woo
	10.00am	Family Communion with children's activities, Arthur Woo
	4.00pm	Confirmation Service, Geoff Sowden/Bishop Lee
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, Daphne Hardwick
Blunsdon	10.00am	Family Holy Communion, John Rees/Kathryn Dack
Newburgh	7.30pm	Evening Service, Geoff Sowden

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 22nd November 2009, Sunday before Advent

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
	10.00am	Parish Communion & children's activities, Geoff Sowden/Lesley Page
	4.00pm	T-Time Service & children's groups, Geoff Sowden/Stephen Fasham
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, Trevor Day
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
	10.00am	Family Worship, Jane Ockwell

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

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

The committee are holding a coffee morning in the Church Room on Saturday 21st November between 10.00am and 12.00noon to raise money towards the oranges and candles for Christingle. There will be a cake stall, raffle and "gifts" stall. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

This year's Christingle service in St Michael's will be on Sunday 6th December at 4.00pm.

For information please contact me

Janet Livall

CONGRATULATIONS

...to Joyce Maundrell who will be 80 years old on Monday - have a very Happy Birthday, with love from all at St Michael's



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 16 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
	7.30pm	PCC in the Church Room
Tue 17 th	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 40 Bydemill Gardens (Lynn 763197)
	8.00pm	Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Green (Wendy 861122)
Wed 18 th	9.00am	Deadline for articles for Parish News - December/January issue
	9.30am	Music Bugs in the Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes in the Chancel
	10.00am	Holy Communion, St Leonard's Blunsdon
	7.00pm	Pilates in the Church Room
Thu 19 th	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
Fri 20 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 21 st	10.00am	Children's Society Coffee Morning, Church Room

ADVENT SUNDAY - 29th November 3009

In accordance with our vision, on Advent Sunday there will be only one service in St Michael's when all the members of the Church will come together for the St Michael's Church Celebration at 9.30am

'to share Jesus through our growth in love for God, each other and our community'.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole church to celebrate Holy Communion together.

We look forward to seeing you, coffee and cake will be served after the service.

Geoff, Arthur and the Leadership Team

PARISH NEWS TAKES US INTO 2010!

The next issue of the Parish News will be the double issue for December and January, so please think ahead and send any items for inclusion to the editors before the deadline of 9am Wednesday 18th November. By email to parishnewshighworth@yahoo.com,.

Thank you

Madelaine Kirke

OPERATION SHOEBOX

After hearing at the Remembrance Service of the fantastic efforts of some of our local Cubs and Scouts in filling **sixty** shoeboxes for the armed forces serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, a number of people have asked how they too can join this project.

For details of what to put in your box please see the Bulletin insert this week, or, if you have internet access, take a look at www.operationshoebox.co.uk for more information.

Adam Worrall, the Cub leader in Highworth who has lead this venture, has offered to be a central point for this project in Highworth. If you have a completed shoebox or spare items for a box please deliver to Adam