

**HIGHWORTH METHODIST CHURCH
CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

HMC are holding their Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 28th November** - with Cakes, Home produce, apple pies, toys, gifts, lucky dip and children's crafts to name but some of the attractions!
Do visit HMC and support their Christmas Fayre

*The woman said to him,
"I know the Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."
Jesus said to her,
"I am the one."*

John 4:25-26



Week beginning Sunday 22nd November 2009

John 4.1-26, 39-41

We now commence the last part of a sermon series on our vision, to 'Share Jesus, by growing in love for our community'.

Jesus principle can be seen from the account of him meeting with the woman at the well. The woman's heart, was more important than the issue. He had discerned the inadequacy of her relationships, v18, and was pointing out her need of a relationship with him, v14. How did Jesus focus on the person?

1. Jesus put himself 'on the line.' V9, v27.

Jesus was prepared to risk all sorts of difficulty, and misunderstanding, ignoring the social norms, because he wanted to treat the woman for who she was.

2. Jesus was honest. V18.

He doesn't mess about when he says to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband, the fact is you have had five, and the man you are with now is not your husband.' The best friendships are surely based on honesty.

3. Jesus had compassion. V10.

Jesus dealt with her in dignity and respect. He took her seriously.

What was the result of this meeting? V39, many came to believe in Jesus.

For further reflection.

1. Think of an occasion when you put the issue before the person, how would you conduct the situation differently to follow Jesus example? Do you need to seek repentance for your dealings with someone in particular?

2. How much are you guided in your conduct by what others might think of you? Do you need to think more of what Jesus would think?

3. Is our compassion able to override natural feelings of finding that certain people 'rub us up the wrong way'?

Geoff Sowden

Our readings today are:

John 4:1-26, 39-41 (pew bible page 1066-1067)

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
Grove Hill, Grove Orchard, Hanover House, Henley Drive, Home Farm,
and for all who live or work at Grove Hill Nursing Home

PRAYER

O God, you are full of challenging surprises. You choose to meet us in unexpected places and you refresh our spirits with the living waters of love and acceptance. You do not judge who we are but rather, what we do with who we are. You take even the most irritating features of our personalities and fashion them into tools for the shaping of your kingdom on earth. Remind us that, in your eyes, we are all sisters and brothers in your family. We all thirst for you. Thank you for loving us in spite of our best efforts to make a mess of our lives. Thank you for never abandoning us. **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,
Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Janet Livall,
Carole Richmond, Julia Riggs,
Betty Taber

...all those who are recently bereaved,
praying especially for those who love
and miss
Kim Fulgoni, 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 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

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 29th November 2009, Advent Sunday

Highworth	9.30am	5 th Sunday Celebration Service, Geoff Sowden/Arthur Woo
Blunsdon	10.00am	Advent Praise, John Rees/Kathryn Dack
Newburgh	7.30pm	Evening Worship, Ann Griffith

JESUS



**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

MOTHERS' UNION

MU meets on Thursday at 10.00am in church for Communion before going to the Church Room at approx 10.40am. After coffee, our speaker will be Mary Kent from Stratton St Margaret. Her talk is entitled "Ladies of the Bible", which she will illustrate with a dried flower arrangement. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Anne Rees

ADVENT PRAYERS

Please join us for prayers during Advent on Monday mornings and evenings. Using the familiar words of the Carols we will look at the Christmas story as we prepare to bring Jesus Christ into the heart of Christmas. There will be more details each week in the Bulletin on times and venue.

Lesley Page and Lynn Woo

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 23 rd	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
	7.45pm	Clinton's Gift Trustees meeting, Vicarage
Tue 24 th	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 11 The Willows (Lynn 763197)
	8.00pm	Tuesday Evening Fellowship, 5 The Willows (Allan 762721)
Wed 25 th	9.30am	Music Bugs in the Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes in the Chancel
	2.00pm	Magazine Working Party in the Cullerne Room
	7.00pm	Pilates in the Church Room
Thu 26 th	10.00am	Holy Communion in church
	10.40am	Mothers' Union, Church Room
	6.00pm	Mozaic rehearsal and preparation in Church
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
	8.00pm	Mozaic Jazz Concert in Church
Fri 27 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
	7.00pm	Christmas Lights ceremony, Market Square
Sat 28 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
	10.00am	Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar

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 us all 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

TREE POLLARDING and garden work

Many thanks to the stalwarts who joined the last working party on 7th November pollarding (lopping bits off trees) in the churchyard. It didn't quite all get done, and there is some work to be done in the new area which is now owned by St Michael's just off the churchyard, formally known as Deacon's Garden, now being referred to as the Garden Room. So there will be another working party on Saturday 28th November 2009 from 9.00am - all are welcome, there are jobs for all ages and skills, and the exercise is good for you! Many hands make light work, so please come along even if only for a short while on Saturday 28th November between from 9.00am.

Fabric Committee

THANK YOU to everyone involved in the Royal British Legion coffee morning, at which £124.50 was raised for the RBL.

Penny Robertson

PHOTOGRAPHS AT THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE - If anyone has any photographs from the Confirmation Service last Sunday it would be appreciated if you could get in touch with Alan Warren.