

OPERATION SHOEBOX

Many thanks to all who have contributed to Operation Shoebox, providing items for the armed services in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is now a box in church by the font for any donations for the Operation Shoebox appeal, so please place your donations in there and Adam Worrall of Vorda Cubs will collect them. Thank you for your support.

ROTAS are in the post rack for those who do not receive them electronically

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in for those who live in Hannington village, for those who live in Inglesham Village, and all who live or work on the High Street

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
your world awaits you.
In the longing of the persecuted for justice;
in the longing of the poor for prosperity;
in the longing of the privileged for riches greater than wealth;
in the longing of our hearts for a better life;
and in the song of your church:
expectation is ever present.

O come Lord, O come Immanuel

Amen

THANK YOU

Alf and I are so grateful to be surrounded by the prayers of so many, which have kept us going through a very long few months when we have been passed between hospitals.

It is also good to know when a prayer has been answered and that God did it while I thought He was keeping a very low profile on the situation. The 5 days emergency radiotherapy that I had in August has just shown on the scan that the tumour in the spine has shrunk and is no longer compressing the nervous system. This means I have much more strength in my legs and no longer need the spinal operation. Praise the Lord!

Hilary & Alf

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PHOTOS – if you have any photographs from the confirmation service please get in contact with Alan Warren.

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



Week beginning Sunday 29th November 2009 - Advent Sunday

**"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another" (John 13:35)**

Today is a service of celebration, for we are convinced that God is working among us. The evidence is the growth of love we see: love for one another, love for community, and love for God. When we look into each of these areas, we can say with confidence, love is in good supply and increasing. For instance, our funeral ministry is a practical outworking of our love for community. It's not just the clergy that get involved. Funerals involve lots of administration support from Rosie, an organist, someone on the sound desk, people to greet at the door, people to tidy the church and grounds. We try to follow up on bereaved after the funeral, pray for the families, and especially on the anniversary of death, and offer the 'In Loving Memory' service as an opportunity to find comfort for years to come. Furthermore, we know the congregation will naturally rally around those who are suffering from bereavement. When you stop to think about it, funeral ministry is huge at St Michael's, and it is likely that all of us have played some part. And we are convinced that this would not be possible if God were not in the centre of it all, pouring out his love into us.

For further reflection:

1. We invite everyone to stop, reflect how God is empowering us to love others, our community and God himself more and more. Celebrate at least with a prayer of thanks.
2. Some of us are never happy about the progress of the church. Why is this?
3. Can you love more? Psychology would say you can only love others by loving yourself first. What do you think?

Arthur Woo

Our reading today is:

John 13: 31-38 (pew bible page 1066)

Please join us for refreshments after our 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

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 29th November 2009, Advent Sunday

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

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 6th December 2009, Advent 2**

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
 9.00am Parish Breakfast, Church Room, all very welcome
 10.00am Morning Praise with children's activities, Arthur Woo/Lesley Page
 4.00pm Children's Society Christingle Service, Arthur Woo
 7.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
 Sevenhampton 9.00am Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
 Hannington 10.30am Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Communion CW, John Rees
 4.00pm Children's Society Christingle Service, Geoff Sowden



PARISH BREAKFAST - breakfast will be served between the 8.00am and 10.00am services next Sunday 6th December. We enjoy good food, good fellowship and a good natter - please come and join us!

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FLOWER GUILD.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 2nd December at Julie Bishop's home, 27 Pound Road, Highworth, at 8.00pm to discuss the Christmas floral arrangements. Would all arrangers please make every effort to attend. Many thanks,

Barbara Lawton

CHRISTINGLE

Firstly many, many thanks to everyone who supported our coffee morning last Saturday to raise money of the oranges & candles. We made £153.50. So thank you everyone.

Christingle Service is on Sunday 6th December at 4.00pm in St Michael's. It will be led by Rev Arthur Woo. Come along and enjoy this lovely service to raise funds towards the work of the Children's Society.

We would love to have some volunteers to help us make up the Christingles, first on Friday morning at 10.30am in the Cullerne Room to put the red bands round the oranges and then on Saturday afternoon again in the Cullerne Room to finish them off at 2.00pm. There will be a cuppa as well!

Thank you,

The Committee

ICC PRAYERS - The church in Highworth meets together to pray this Tuesday 1st December at the Methodist Church, 8.00pm-9.00pm. Please come along and join together.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 30th 9.30am Advent Prayers in Church (see below)
 9.30am Watercolour Group in the Church Room until 3.00pm
 7.00pm Advent Prayers, Church Room (see below)
 7.00pm Highworth Choral Society rehearsal in Church
 Tue 1 Dec 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
 10.00am Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 14 Brookfield (Lynn)
 11.00am Schools and Youth Worker interviews, Church Room
 7.00pm Neighbourhood Watch, Church Room
 8.00pm ICC Prayers, Methodist Church
 Wed 2nd 9.30am Music Bugs in the Church Room
 9.30am Little Fishes in the Chancel
 2.30pm Holy Communion, Grove Hill
 7.00pm Pilates in the Church Room
 8.00pm Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Green (Wendy)
 8.00pm St Michael's Flower Guild meeting, 27 Pound Road
 Thu 3rd 7.30pm Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
 Fri 4th 7.00pm Choir Practice
 Sat 5th 10.00am Social Committee Christmas Coffee Morning, Church Room
 7.30pm Highworth Choral Society Christmas Concert

ADVENT PRAYERS - MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER

This week we will be using the carol 'Once in Royal David's City' as we prepare to bring Jesus Christ into the heart of Christmas through our Advent Prayers. Please join us as follows:

Monday morning in Church

9.30am-10.00am Morning Prayer
 10.00am-10.45am Prayer Stations
 10.45am-11.00am Closing prayers

Monday evening in the Church Room

7.00pm-7.30pm Prayer Stations
 7.30pm-8.15pm Corporate Prayer

Lesley Page and Lynn Woo

**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

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS
COFFEE MORNING**

The Social Committee are holding a CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING on 5th December in the CHURCH ROOM from 9.30am to 12.00noon.

There will be CAKES, CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS, HOMEMADE CHUTNEY and a CHRISTMAS RAFFLE. We will be serving mince pies or sausage rolls with the usual hot drinks and squash.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the church family so much for their greetings and wonderful bouquet of flowers, adding to the celebration of my 80th birthday. I was really thrilled and felt very special. Thank you again,

Joyce Maundrell

LINK DELAY please note that the Link magazine will be a week late this month.