

REPAIR OF CHURCH WALL PLASTER

I am pleased to tell you that the badly stained plaster above the George III Coat of Arms is to be replaced this week.

Work started Monday 1st February and although workmen will not be in Church all the time, it will continue this week. Tower scaffold will be necessary to reach the top of the wall and although this will be removed for Sunday Services, the PCC apologise for any inconvenience at other times.

Peter Hinton

Annual Report - Calling All Groups

St Michael's produces an annual financial statement and reports and the time has once again come to produce the 2009 edition. If you are involved in ANY group associated with the church e.g. housegroups, children's work, bellringers, choir, Christian Aid (the list goes on) please can you submit a short paragraph detailing what you got up to in 2009. A lot of fantastic stuff goes on which we don't always get to hear about in the wider community, so this is your chance to tell the world. Please let me have your report by the end of February either as a hard copy via the pigeon holes, or (ideally) via email. Many thanks

Bobby Bailey (PCC Secretary)

Bobbybailey@BTInternet.com



Week beginning Sunday 7th February 2010

What caught John's eye was the throne! Not who was there, but what he sat on! Revelation ch. 4 starts with a view which John sees of heaven. In contrast to the previous 3 chapters in which Jesus speaks of the condition of the churches, John has a vision of heaven through an open door.

The throne in heaven has one seated on it who is SO glorious that he can only be described in terms of precious stones, a crystal sea and a rainbow of emerald - green being the colour of mercy- and surrounded by worshipping humankind, angelic beings and seraphim.

The voice like a trumpet was Jesus Christ's voice. His first word is 'Come.' He was speaking with John. How can we resist this same voice as he calls us to more revelation through the Spirit?

Heaven's door is open. I heard a word that 2010 would see God 'opening heaven.' May we be open to God's Spirit to hear what he is saying to us about earth and heaven.

- What do we personally value more than anything else? Could this be displacing Jesus?
- Have we any misplaced preconceptions of heaven that we are prepared to change?
- Is there any way that we sense that God is speaking WITH us, not TO us?

Cross references:-

Isaiah 6:1-7

Malachi 3:10 'Open the windows of heaven'

John 1:51, 'You shall see heaven open.....'

Ann Griffith

Our readings today are:

Revelation 4 (pew bible page 1236)

Luke 8:22-25 (pew bible page 1037)

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

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in Swindon Street, Turnpike Road, Vicarage Lane, Vorda Road, Wessex Way, and for all involved with Warneford School

PRAYER

God, you have created us out of your love, and for your love.

Christ, you have redeemed us by your love, and for your love.

Holy Spirit, you inspire us with your love and for your love.

Give us grace to perceive your love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled, praying especially for

Joan Burton, Steve Chandler, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley, Peggy Dobson, Gwen Drew, Pat Dunderdale, Hilary Fortnam, Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Carole Richmond, Betty Taber, Jane Underwood, Anne Willis, Charlotte Vockins

...all those who are recently bereaved, praying especially for those who love and miss Ethel (Ett) Matthews, Margaret McKerracher, Ron Tanner, Gwen Thicke

...all those involved with Northview School following the recent decision by councillors to close the school in the summer

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 7th February 2010, 2nd Sunday before Lent

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
	9.00am	church breakfast in church room, all welcome
	10.00am	Morning Praise with children's activities, Lesley Page/Ann Griffith
	2.00pm	ATC Parade and Service, Arthur Woo
	4.00pm	T-time all age communion, Geoff Sowden/Bella Fasham
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Sevenhampton	9.00am	Holy Communion CW, Arthur Woo
Hannington	1.30am	Holy Communion CW, Arthur Woo
Blunsdon	10.00am	Family Communion CW, Alan Hawker/Geoff Sowden

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 14th February 2010, Sunday before Lent

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
	10.00am	Family Communion with children's activities, Geoff Sowden
	4.00pm	T-time service with children's groups, Arthur Woo/Stephen Fasham
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, John Godfree
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
	10.00am	Family Worship, Jane Ockwell
	6.30pm	Evensong, Justin Griffith
Grove Hill	7.30pm	Evening Service, Ann Griffith

CHURCH BREAKFAST TODAY

This morning Sunday 7th February breakfast will be served in the church room between the 8.00am and 10.00am services. New faces are as welcome as our regulars – please join us.

Diocese of Bristol Monthly Newsletter

The February edition is available on the internet at www.bristol.anglican.org/news/local/newsletter/2010/feb/feb.html. If you do not have internet access please ask Rosie in the office to print you a copy.

Wendy Ratcliffe would like to thank the church family for their prayers and good wishes, which have supported her through her recent operation.

CLUES 2 USE

It is sad that so few members of St Michael's have been involved with the Clues 2 Use sessions which have been following on from last summer's Holiday Club. The next one will be on **Saturday 20th February**. Are you able to help in any way? Your help would be very much appreciated – the more helpers the less the work for each. We will need some people to set up the Methodist church for an hour or so from 10am, or can you help during the afternoon (2pm-5pm) with craft, games etc? Or perhaps you are available for an hour from 5pm to help in returning the Methodist church to its 'normal' state – any time you can give would be helpful. Please contact **Lesley Uzzell** to volunteer.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 8 th	9.30am	Prayers in Church - all welcome
	10.00am	Watercolour Group. Church Room
	2.30pm	Thanksgiving service for Ron Tanner
	7.45pm	Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
	8.00pm	Fabric Committee at 5 Priory Green
Tue 9 th	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Tuesday morning fellowship, 40 Bydemill Gardens (Lynn)
	7.45pm	ICC Meeting in the Church Room
Wed 10 th	9.15am	Music Bugs in the Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes in the Chancel
	7.00pm	Pilates in the Church Room
	8.00pm	LINK meeting at The Bridge
Thu 11 th	11.00am	'One Only' coffee morning in the church room
	12.00noon	Funeral of Ethel (Ett) Matthews in church
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
	8.00pm	Worship Leaders' training in the church room
Fri 12 th	6.00pm	HCC in the Church Room all night
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 13 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
Sun 14 th	12.30pm	Welcome lunch at the Vicarage

Builders in church all week

Church office closed Thursday

ANNUAL INCOME SURVEY – We will be carrying out the annual Anonymous Income Survey on Sundays 14th and 21st February and it is very important that everyone who is a regular worshipper at St. Michael's completes a form. Please note that couples complete separate forms as two individuals. Individuals record their personal income, not their household or spouse's, and it is important that you complete a form even if you have no personal income, are on a pension or are under 16 years of age. Confidentiality is assured, the returns are completely anonymous. So PLEASE complete a form.

Rosie & Mike, Churchwardens

LENT LUNCHESES

Lent Lunches start on Ash Wednesday 17th February 2010 in The Methodist Church - all donations will be given to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal with money being split between three Christian charities: Cafod, Christian Aid and TEARFund.

St Michael's turn is on 3rd March and volunteers are needed to help with making soup, setting up and clearing away, serving and washing up, please let me know if you can help in any way.

Lesley Page

JOHN'S LICENSING

John Rees has now completed his initial ministry training, and at the 10.00am service in Blunsdon today he is being licensed by the Archdeacon as Associate Minister in the Benefice, with responsibility for St Leonard's. We will also be celebrating Kathryn Dack's licensing as a Lay Minister yesterday. Please pray for John and Kathryn as they begin a new stage in their ministry.

MONTHLY PARISH NEWS MAGAZINE DELIVERY APPEAL

We need someone to take on the delivery Round for 10 homes in Windrush. Please be aware that this route involves slopes and steps. If you feel you can take this on, Madeleine Newton will be very pleased to hear from you. Thank you.