

### COFFEE MORNING LAST WEEK

Wow! **£243.31**. What an amazing amount we raised last Saturday morning with coffee morning/ podium sale.

Many thanks to Steve, Don and Lesley for braving a very cold morning to man the stall on the podium and to everyone who came for coffee, we were bursting at the seams at times.

Thank you all very much.

**The Children's Society Committee**

### COFFEE MORNING NEXT WEEK

St Michael's Church Flower Guild will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Church Room next Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, between 10am and 12noon. Admission 50p. There will be a Cake and Bring and Buy Stall and a Raffle. Proceeds will go towards our Flower Fund.

Everyone welcome.

**Barbara Lawton**



**Week beginning Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**A Parent's Nightmare Luke 2:39-52**

Many parents must have experienced mislaying a child even if only for one minute, and the panic that sets in. Mary and Joseph had this experience after going to Jerusalem for the Passover when Jesus was 12. It was a long walk and people from Nazareth would walk together for safety – a big friendly crowd. Jesus knew them all so he could have been with any of them. So it wasn't until the end of the first day walking home that Mary and Joseph realised Jesus wasn't with them. They then had a day's walk back to Jerusalem, and on the third day they found him in the temple. Here he was asking intelligent questions on the Scriptures, amazing the scholars.

But for Mary and Joseph, Jesus had been gone for three days – they were hurt and puzzled that he hadn't told them where he was. Would they feel angry with him, or so relieved that he was safe? Would Joseph have felt pushed aside when Jesus said he must be in his heavenly Father's house?

But Mary treasured all these things in her heart.

Only Luke gives us this glimpse of the hidden years. Jesus had been brought up in the Jewish faith since birth – and he would have been good, only occasionally getting up to mischief with his brothers. Just like a teenager now, but now we see just why Luke included this snapshot of life in the hidden years.

It illustrates the totality of the incarnation! Jesus wasn't divine perfection from birth – he had to learn it. He did cry in the manger in spite of a carol saying "no crying he makes". That would only deny the credal statement that he was truly human as well as truly God.

Jesus knew by instinct that he had to be in His Father's house – the temple; and our Mother church is linked to that temple as Christianity has been passed down the generations for over 2000 years. It is up to us in 2010 to tell more people of the love of our heavenly Father as we give thanks for those who taught us our faith

#### **To Consider:**

1. *Do we find talking to non-Christians about our faith hard to do?*
2. *How can we overcome that?*

**Hilary Fortnam**

**Our readings today are:**

Not notified

Please join us for refreshments after our service today

### **PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE**

This week we pray for those who live in Cotswold Way, Crane Furlong, Cricklade Road, The Cullerns, The Dormers and Downs View

### **PRAYER**

Father, we can see in Jesus the same tension that we sometimes feel -- to follow your call as well as to please the important people in our lives. Sometimes we find we can't do both.

Give us wisdom, and help us live out our lives before you and people on earth with integrity.

Most of all, we thank you for your grace and ask for the continuing unmerited gift of your favour upon our lives.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

**Amen**

### **THE JESUS FILM**

We have a copy of the video which is regularly used by Pauline and Alan Ashmore in their outreach in Burkina Faso. If you would like to borrow it please contact Allan Bucknall.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

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

Joan Burton, Steve Chandler, Val Cox, Pat Dunderdale, Hilary Fortnam, Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Carole Richmond, Betty Taber, Jane Underwood, Anne Willis, Charlotte Vockins, all those affected by the closure of Northview School, all who are affected by the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile

*...all those who are recently bereaved, praying especially for those who love and miss Gwen Drew, Peggy Dobson, Heinz Hilker, John Maddison, Joy Wright*

### **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](mailto:stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk)

[www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

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

**SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Mothering Sunday**

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
	10.00am	Family Communion for Mothering Sunday, Geoff Sowden/ Hilary Fortnam/Lesley Page
	4.00pm	T-time service & children's groups, Geoff Sowden/Katie James
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Hannington	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service, Arthur Woo
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
	10.00am	Mothering Sunday Service, John Rees
	6.30pm	Evensong, John Rees
Grove Hill	7.30pm	Evening Service, Helen Weaver

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion CW, Arthur Woo
	10.00am	Morning Praise and children's activities, Lesley Page/Rob Stewart
	4.00pm	T-time service & children's groups, Geoff Sowden/Stephen Fasham
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo/Neil George
Sevenhampton	6.00pm	Shared Choral Evensong, Geoff Sowden
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, tbc
Blunsdon	10.00am	Family Communion, Arthur Woo
Newburgh	7.30pm	Evening Service, Jean Ashton

**TODAY** - We welcome families joining us today who are preparing for baptism.

**LENT LUNCHESES**

Lent Lunches continue on Wednesday in The Methodist Church. Donations will be shared between three Christian charities: Cafod, Christian Aid and TEARFund, working in Haiti.

**LENT STUDIES** continue on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00pm at the URC. All welcome, please join us.

**ENVELOPE GIVING**

Envelopes for the year 2010/11, starting in April, are now on the Chest in the cross-aisle. Please take yours. If anyone else would like envelopes for their regular giving to St Michael's, please speak to **John Spencer**.

**BCP & T** - The next BCP & T service will be held on Palm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, at 2.30pm in St Michael's. As always please contact me if you need a lift to the service, or are able to provide any items for the tea. Many thanks, **Esmé Buller**

We have 2 copies of "The Bible designed to be read as Literature" in need of new homes. It's the Authorised text but laid out like an ordinary book. If anyone wants a copy, they are welcome to one of them. **Madelaine Kirke**

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Prayers in Church - all welcome
	10.00am	Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
	7.00pm	Highworth Choral Society rehearsal in church
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 34 Eastrop (Lynn)
	7.00pm	Church Room booked for private hire
	8.00pm	Lent Studies, URC
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Deadline for April's Parish News
	9.15am	Music Bugs in the Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes in the Chancel
	12.00noon	Lent Lunches, Methodist Church (to 1.30pm)
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	12.00noon	Funeral of Gwen Drew in church
	2.00pm	BWS Security Systems in Church
	7.00pm	Baptism Preparation, Church Room
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Working Party in the Garden Room
	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**

At our 10am service, we will be looking at the role of families in teaching their faith to their children and how we all can help and support as we are all God's family. The Mother church, linked to the temple so long ago, is a great influence to encourage us to pass on our faith and give thanks for those who taught us. Everyone is welcome, young and not so young. Please stay after the service for coffee/tea and Mothering Sunday special Simnel cake.

Daffodils will be distributed to all ladies at all our four services today.

**Hilary Fortnam**

**ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Highworth Parish Electoral Roll is nothing to do with voting in local elections! No - it's a list of people who are 'members' of one of the churches in the Parish - either St Michael's, or St John's in Inglesham or St James' in Sevenhampton. If you are over 16 and regularly worship at one of these churches, and are not currently on the Electoral Roll, please do consider going on. Being on the Roll shows that you are committed to the church, and the number of people on the Roll determines things like our staffing level and the number of elected PCC members we can have.

Every year we revise the Electoral Roll, in the period leading up to the Annual Meeting. The current Roll will be in church on the oak chest next week and the following week, for you to check if your name appears. If your name is not on the list you can apply to go on - forms will be available in church also on the chest, you just need to complete your name and address and sign a declaration - simple!

Please consider joining the Electoral Roll if you are a regular worshipper in the Parish. For more information on the Electoral Roll please contact me. If you see a name on the list you feel should not be there, please also let me know.

**Lesley Uzzell, Electoral Roll Officer**