

HOLIDAY CLUB

This year's Holiday Club will run from **Monday 16th August to Friday 20th August 2010**. If you would like to help with this annual adventure, there is bound to be a role you can fill! Whether you are able to help physically during the week or not please pray for Holiday Club, that the leadership roles will be filled quickly and that sufficient volunteers will come forward. To volunteer please contact Sarah or Chris who are this year's coordinators, or St Michael's representative on the leadership group Lesley Uzzell. There will be a meeting for core team members on **Wednesday 28th April**, venue to be arranged.

Sarah Heppenstall (sheppenstall@talktalk.net)

Chris Speller (chris@spellerfamily.co.uk)

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

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

PRAYER POINTS FOR THE ASHMORES

Please pray for Pauline and Alan, back in Burkina Faso to continue their mission work there. Please pray for their safety and for their family to remain safe and well while Pauline and Alan are away.

PRAYER

Christ our Lord, risen from the dead,
Come and enter into the darkness of our
doubt and despair with the bright light of
your presence,
That we may put our trust in you and in
the power of your resurrection
And that we may rejoice in you, the Risen
Lord, our Saviour,
Who lives and reigns with the Father and
the Holy Spirit,
One God, world without end
Amen

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled,
praying especially for
Joan Burton, Steve Chandler, Val Cox,
Hilary Fortnam, Peter Gibbs, Carole
Richmond, Betty Taber, Jane Underwood,
Anne Willis, Charlotte Vockins,
...all those who are recently bereaved,
praying especially for those who love and
miss Syd Huband, Anne O'Brien,
Gwendoline Rachael
...all those in our town who will be
affected by the summer closure of
Northview Primary School

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



Week beginning Sunday 11th April 2010

Thomas - doubter or realist?

Thomas wasn't in the Upper Room for Jesus first appearance. Why was he missing I wonder? Maybe recent events made him depressed and he needed solitude. Some describe him as honest but pig-headed and thought he knew all the answers. The other disciples were also low in spirits but they knew they needed each other's company - just like we should never cut ourselves off from the support and fellowship of other Christians.

I've always had a soft spot for Thomas but it is reasonable to assume he should have been there with the others. The name 'Doubting Thomas' has gone down in history, but he was actually very loyal, loving and brave - sticking with Jesus through thick and thin. Thomas had seen Jesus die so he couldn't accept the other disciples' words - what he wanted was personal proof. And how about us? Without the evidence would we have acted any differently?

When Thomas did see the evidence, all he could say falling to his knees was "My Lord and my God". (This was the first time Jesus had been called God). Thomas now sees more clearly than the others, that through Jesus we meet God.

We all doubt at times, but here we see the graciousness of Jesus coming to give Thomas another chance - and He will give *us* that chance again and again. The wonder is that He meets us where we are however unworthy we feel.

"Blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed"

St John leaves many unanswered questions:

- How did Jesus come through a locked door?
- What did His hands and side look like?
- Did the Resurrected Jesus look any different?

Hilary Fortnam

Our readings today are:

Acts 5:27-32 (pew bible page 1097)

John 20:19-31 (pew bible page 1089)

Please join us for refreshments after our 8am and 10am 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

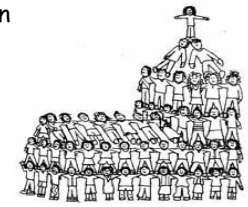
SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 11th April 2010, 2nd Sunday of Easter

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
	10.00am	Morning Praise with children's activities, Arthur Woo/Hilary Fortnam
	4.00pm	T-Time all age communion, Arthur Woo/Bella Fasham
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo/Neil George
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, Janet Done
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Justin Griffith
	10.00am	Family Worship and baptism, John Rees/Jane Ockwell
	6.30pm	Shared Choral Evensong, Ann Griffith
Grove Hill	7.30pm	Evening Worship, Hilary Fortnam



SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 18th April 2010, 3rd Sunday of Easter

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
	10.00am	Morning Praise with children's activities, Geoff Sowden
	4.00pm	Highworth Scouting Centenary parade and T-time service with children's groups, Geoff Sowden
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, tbc
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, tbc
Blunsdon	10.00am	Family Holy Communion, John Rees
Newburgh	7.30pm	Evening Worship, Hilary Fortnam



PARISH NEWS

The deadline for items for the May issue of the Parish News is this **Wednesday 14th April**. Have you read something inspiring or challenging lately you would like to share? Please send any items for publication, any dates of events, anything else of interest to the wider church family, either by email to parishnewshighworth@yahoo.com, or deliver by hand to 1 The Paddock. Many thanks.

Kathleen Spencer

LENT COURSE FOLLOW-ON

There will be a joint meditation evening, as a follow-up to this year's Lent Course, at Highworth Methodist Church on Tuesday 13th April at 7.30pm.

Wendy Ratcliffe



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 12 th	8.00am	Building work commences in church (on the toilets)
	9.30am	Prayers in church - all are welcome, please come along
	7.45pm	Ministry Team Meeting, Vicarage
Tue 13 th	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 14 Brookfield (Lynn)
	12.30pm	Funeral of Gwendoline Rachael in Church
	7.00pm	Church Room booked for private hire
	7.30pm	BPRG PCC catch-up in church
	7.30pm	Meditation Evening, Highworth Methodist church
Wed 14 th	9.00am	Deadline for Parish News items for May issue
	2.00pm	Funeral of Anne O'Brien in church
	7.00pm	Pilates in the Church Room
	8.00pm	Social Committee, 69 Eastrop
	8.00pm	Swindon Branch Bellringers
Thu 15 th	2.00pm	Church Room booked for private hire
	7.00pm	Choir Meeting in Church
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
Fri 16 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice in church
Sat 17 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
	2.00pm	Clues 2 Use, Holiday Club follow-on, Methodist Church
Sun 18 th	7.45pm	Election Hustings at Highworth Methodist Church (tbc)

PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOLS

A 'Pray for Schools' event is being held on **Thursday 29th April** at Greendown Community School, Grange Park from 7.30pm-9.30pm. The aim of this event is to bring Christians from across the area together to support all those involved in our local schools by praying for them.

This of course has particular relevance here in Highworth at this time of upheaval in our schools.

For further details please contact Chris at Swindon Youth for Christ on chris@syfc.org.uk

PARISH NEWS DELIVERERS:

Thank you as always for your faithful work delivering the Parish News Magazines. Please see that you each have an up to date list of your round on the inside flap of your folders now. Thanks for all the ongoing updates you give me.

With good wishes, **Madeleine Newton**

COME AND SING MESSIAH

We are holding a Come and Sing Messiah on Saturday April 24th at St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5EH. The workshop is from 2:00- 5:30pm and the performance at 7.30pm. Tickets: £8 (singers and audience), accompanied children under 18 free for the performance. Workshop application forms are available from www.swindonchoral.org.uk or by contacting Kath Danswan, 13 Croft Road, Swindon, Wilts SN14DG. Please enclose a SSAE for details.

A donations from the proceeds will go to Prospect Foundation

TOILET IMPROVEMENTS!

Please note that building work on the toilets in Church is due to commence tomorrow, Monday 12th April. Hopefully, this shouldn't take longer than one week and cause too much inconvenience. It will be worth it once it's done!

Please send items and inserts for the Weekly Bulletin to Lesley Uzzell by **6pm Thursdays**: tel. 765050, email weeklybulletin@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk