

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Annual Reports from Groups 2009 are now available on the Church Chest. Please take a copy to find out more about the many groups that contribute to the spiritual and working life of our church. If you are on email, please do consider having an e-copy and saving resources, email bobbybailey@btinternet.com.

Bobby Bailey, PCC Secretary

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in
Islay Crescent, Kilda Road,
Kings Avenue, Knowlands,
Lechlade Road and Lismore Road

PRAYER

Lord, you came down to lift us up,
You became human that we might share in
the divine,
You died that we might rise to life
immortal.
Help us to live as those who believe and
trust in you,
and grant that we may live to your praise
and glory, Christ our Lord, who rose for us
and now lives and reigns with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God, world
without end

Amen

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

PRAYER POINTS FOR THE ASHMORES

Pauline and Alan, are now safely back in Burkina Faso to continue their mission work there. Please continue to pray for them, their specific requests are:

- for good preparation for their course on Evangelism 26th-30th April
- for good preparation for their English courses in May, June and July
- for their film outreaches scattered over the 3-month period
- that they will withstand the heat (their outside barometer is now reading well into the 40'sC in the shade!)
- that they will honour the Lord in all they do
- for their family, churches and friends back home who will be much missed

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 Irene Chesterman, Margaret Mapson,
Anne O'Brien
*...all those in our town who will be
affected by the summer closure of
Northview Primary School*

St Michael and All Angels, Highworth, with Sevenhampton and Inglesham

Week beginning Sunday 18th April 2010

Isn't This Where We Came In?

Early in Jesus' ministry in Galilee, he persuaded Simon Peter (he'd already met Peter) to float his fishing-boat a few yards offshore so that he could preach from it. Afterwards he told Peter to go out a bit and drop the nets to make up for the previous night in which they had caught nothing. The size of the catch split the nets. Peter and James and John (Jesus' cousins) were astonished and readily left their boats and business and followed him from that day: "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." The account is early in Luke's Gospel.

Shortly before Jesus was crucified, Peter promised that he would follow Jesus to the death but then, when questioned by some very humble servants and guards, denied that he even knew Jesus. You might think that Peter's usefulness was finished.

After Jesus' resurrection and back in Galilee, Peter, James and John and some others of the apostles went fishing overnight and caught nothing. Very early in the morning Jesus, unrecognised by them, called to them from the shore to put the net over the other side of the boat; and when the size of the catch again filled the net they knew who he was. This time the net didn't split. This account comes from near the end of John's Gospel in this week's readings.

Back on shore, Peter had a conversation with Jesus. He now confirmed that he loved Jesus. And Jesus effectively told him that this time Peter would keep his promise to follow him even at the cost of his life. Peter had made a complete "pig's ear" of it, but Jesus specialises in choosing unsuitable people to use, and in making failures successful. There's hope for all of us.

Some thoughts:

- Probably not many weeks later Peter and the apostles told the Jewish authorities that they'd crucified Jesus, their Messiah (Acts 4: 8-12). Where did their boldness come from?
- Does Jesus' success in fishing for fish tell us anything about our fishing for people?

Justin Griffith

Our readings today are:

Acts 9:1-20 (pew bible page 1102)

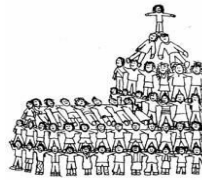
John 21:1-19 (pew bible page 1090)

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 18th April 2010, 3rd Sunday of Easter

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, 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, Arthur Woo/Ruth Clark
 Hannington 10.30am **CANCELLED**
 Blunsdon 10.00am Family Holy Communion, John Rees
 Newburgh 7.30pm Evening Worship, Hilary Fortnam



SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 25th April 2010, 4th Sunday of Easter

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Justin Griffith
 10.00am Parish Communion & children's activities, Geoff Sowden/Charles Kirke
 4.00pm T-time service with children's groups, Arthur Woo/Stephen Fasham
 7.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur and Lynn Woo/Ruth Clark
 Hannington 10.30am Morning Worship, John Godfree
 Blunsdon 8.00am Holy Communion, John Rees
 10.00am Taizé Family Worship, John Rees/Kathryn Dack/Alison Porter

ELECTION HUSTINGS

There will be an opportunity to hear what the local candidates have to say this evening at 7.45pm at Highworth Methodist Church, when those standing for our constituency in the forthcoming general election will be together to answer questions from the people of Highworth. All are welcome. This meeting has been organised by the ICC.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!
 Very Happy Birthday wishes and many congratulations to Rev'd Alan Homer, who celebrated his 80th birthday on 13th April
 Lots of love from all at St Michael's

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 primary schools. For further details please contact Chris at Swindon Youth for Christ on 01793 829795 or chris@syfc.org.uk

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sun 18th 11.30am St Leonard's APCM
 7.45pm Election Hustings at Highworth Methodist Church
 Mon 19th 8.00am Building work in church
 9.30am Prayers in church - all are welcome, please come along
 10.00am Ministry Team Meeting, Church Office
 7.30pm PCC in the **CHURCH**
 Tue 20th 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
 10.00am Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 11 The Willows (Lynn 763197)
 7.00pm Church Room booked for private hire
 7.45pm Hannington PCC
 Wed 21st 9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room
 9.30am Little Fishes, Chancel
 10.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard's, Blunsdon
 2.00pm Magazine working party in the Cullerne Room
 8.00pm Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Green (Wendy 861122)
 Thu 22nd 10.00am Holy Communion, St Michael's
 10.40am Mothers' Union in the Church Room
 11.15am Funeral of Irene Chesterman in church
 7.30pm Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
 Fri 23rd 7.00pm Choir Practice in church
 Sat 24th 9.00am youth group showing film in church till 3.00pm
 10.00am Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
 2.00pm Come and Sing Messiah workshop, St Mark's, Swindon
 7.30pm Come and Sing Messiah performance, St Mark's, Swindon

ELECTORAL ROLL

Please check the Electoral Roll listing on the oak chest in church, especially if you have requested an amendment or to be added. The roll is currently closed to new members but will open again after the APCM on 26th April. Please note that if your name is not on the listing you **cannot vote at the APCM this year.**

TOILET REFURBISHMENT

Building work on the toilets in Church began last week but is likely to carry on into next week due to the work being paused on occasion during the week for church services etc.

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

MOTHERS' UNION - MU meets on Thursday in the Church Room at 10.40am after Communion in Church. We will be having cake with our coffee to raise funds for the Children's Society - contributions of cakes and donations welcome! Our speaker this month is Caroline Pitt from Christ Church. She will be showing us a DVD of her daughter's recent work in China. Members are also reminded that we are collecting food for the Swindon Food Bank at our meetings

1st May Medieval Market Day Refreshments in the Church Room - As part of the Medieval Market Day the church will be full of displays and we will be offering refreshments in the Church Room from 10 -4.00pm (coffee, tea, squash and cakes all day and Ploughman's Lunches 12 -2.00pm). Lots of help required to provide cakes, scones and if possible homemade bread and to help on the day for an hour or two. Please sign up on lists provided at the back of church. Thank you.
Lesley and the Social Committee

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