

NICKY LEONARD'S PRAYER REQUESTS:

- * Team Unity - we all have different interests and much time can be engaged in different activities,
- * Young people of Immingham (especially those who attend the Friday youth club) - that they would be encouraged and built up by those around them.
- * The lessons we're running on self-esteem - that we would have God's wisdom to plan the right activities & teaching and that we would be able to handle the kids.
- * Our church congregation - that members would continue to come and enjoy receiving God's word.
- * Team health/energy... - for good health and that we would be energised and not distracted from carrying out God's plans for this place.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,
give us wisdom and faith to trust in you.
When we cannot see your presence,
when the way is full of darkness and doubt
increase our faith, fill us with your Spirit,
and help us to know that you will never
leave us or forsake us.
Lord, we thank you that you are ever with
us,
and that your love is for all your people.
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

WEB SITE

Please come along to a meeting to discuss St Michael's web site on Thursday 13th May at 8.00pm in the Church Room. It is not moving into the 21st Century but marking time in the previous one. We need your thoughts, opinions, views, ideas and a clearer way forward. Your presence would be appreciated; there may be tea and coffee as well. Thanks.

Don Leonard

PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE

This week we pray for those who live in
Oak Drive, Orange Close,
The Paddock, Park Avenue,
Parsonage Court and Pentylands Close

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

...all those who are sick or troubled,
praying especially for Simon Ashmore,
Joan Burton, Steve Chandler, Val Cox,
Hilary Fortnam, Isobel Nott, Carole
Richmond, Betty Taber, Beryl Ransome,
Jane Underwood, Charlotte Vockins, Anne
Willis

...all those who are recently bereaved,
praying especially for those who love and
miss Edith Boulton, Irene Chesterman,
Peter Gibbs, Dennis Heffernan, Bernard
King, Margaret Mapson

...all those involved in mission, praying
especially for Pauline and Alan Ashmore,
Lindy Hope, Nicky Leonard



Week beginning Sunday 2nd May 2010

In the reading from Acts we see Peter being given grief by believers in Jerusalem who were also faithful, law-abiding Jews; he really had gone too far in mixing with non-Jews so wholeheartedly. Until a short while before Peter would have agreed. But he simply had no option. His deep-rooted love and respect for the rules of behaviour for Jews, given originally by God, had to give way to ... God!

The first big point was this message from God: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean". He explained how he went with the messengers to Caesarea and spoke to Cornelius, the centurion, and his friends, family and staff about Jesus' ministry (which they knew about already) and his return to life (which they may not have grasped until then).

Usually, if you read Acts, you see that people believed, were baptized and then received the Holy Spirit. This time it was back to front: as Peter explained about Jesus, the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and the others. He baptized them afterwards.

"Just like us," he explained to the complaining Jerusalem believers (he meant Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came on the believers), "Who was I to oppose God?"

He told them, too, that it had reminded him of Jesus' words: "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Not just the first 120 disciples at Pentecost, you notice, but believers in general.

So we know several things: 1) nobody is beyond the reach of the good news; 2) when you pass on the good news God has probably been there first clearing the way; 3) just when you think you've defined the rules of how God's grace works, he graciously breaks them.

For reflection

- Is there a normal route for coming to faith in Jesus Christ and being equipped to minister (assuming that you accept that we have all been called to minister)?
- Are there any groups of people you'd feel uncomfortable about the vicar staying in the house of?

Justin Griffith

Our readings today are:

Acts 11:1-18 (pew bible page 1105)

John 13:31-35 (pew bible page 1082)

Please join us for refreshments after our 10am and 4pm 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 2nd May 2010, 5th Sunday of Easter

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion CW, Justin Griffith
 9.00am Parish Breakfast, Church Room, all are welcome
 10.00am Morning Worship & children's activities, Anne Griffith/Lesley Uzzell
 4.00pm T-time service with children's groups, Geoff Sowden/Bella Fasham
 7.00pm Informal Worship - café church, Steve Rawlinson/Neil George

Sevenhampton 9.00am Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall

Hannington 10.30am Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden

Blunston 10.00am Family Communion, Justin Griffith

SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 9th May 2010, 6th Sunday of Easter

Highworth 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Arthur Woo
 10.00am Family Communion & children's activities, Arthur Woo
 4.00pm T-time all age communion, Arthur Woo/Katie James
 7.00pm Informal Worship, Arthur Woo/Neil George

Hannington 10.30am Rogation Service, John Godfree

Blunston 8.00am Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
 10.00am Family Worship, Jane Ockwell
 6.30pm Evensong, Peter Demmen

Grove Hill 7.30pm Evening Service, Geoff Sowden

PARISH BREAKFAST

Today between the 8am and 10am services Parish Breakfast will be served in the church room. Do please join us, all are welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK this year is 9th to 15th May. & we need to ask you to help with the house-to-house collections. The collector's packs will be in church from today. If you can help with the collections this year please put your name on the list on the chest & take a pack. New collectors are always welcome. To find out what Christian Aid is all about see this month's Magazine or speak to us. Collectors will be commissioned at the 10 o'clock service next & there will be a short presentation on the work of Christian Aid. Many thanks to everyone who supported our Coffee morning. We raised £40.05.

Tricia & Peter Croton

A "24/7 STYLE" PRAYER ROOM will be open at the Methodist Church on Saturday 15th May from 8.00am to 8.00pm and also Sunday 2.30pm till 6.00pm. For those of you who have never been before - this consists of Prayer 'Stations' around the church/church hall, to encourage you to pray. Some of the stations included are praise, request board, persecuted church, and things to do, all to help in your prayer journey. Also a place for you to just sit and feel the presence of the Lord. Do try and visit. Coffee and biscuits available.

Cindy Robinson

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 3rd Bank Holiday

Tue 4th 9.30am Pilates in the Church Room
 10.00am Tuesday Morning Fellowship, 34 Eastrop (Lynn)
 10.00am Holy Communion, Middi Haines Court
 7.30pm Churchwardens Service at Malmesbury Abbey
 8.00pm ICC Prayers for the election at the Methodist Church

Wed 5th 9.30am Music Bugs, Church Room
 9.30am Little Fishes, Chancel
 10.00am Holy Communion, St Leonard's Blunston
 2.30pm Holy Communion, Grove Hill
 7.45pm 10am Planning meeting, Elsbridge
 8.00pm Wednesday Fellowship, 26 Priory Green (Wendy)

Thu 6th 7.30pm Bellingring practice, Bell Tower

Fri 7th 7.00pm Choir Practice in church

Sat 8th 10.00am Coffee morning and bulletin folding, Church Room
 10.00am 'The Songsters' singing in church

Sun 9th 2.00pm Church Room booked for private hire till 4.30pm

ALPHA

Churches together in Highworth are running an ALPHA course starting on 22nd September 2010. This is an exciting and ambitious project that needs lots of help of all kind. See the poster in the coffee area for more details. There is a 'kickoff' meeting on 11th May at 8.00pm in St Michael's Church.

For more information, please contact **Arthur Woo.**

ICC PRAYERS

On Tuesday 4th May at 8.00pm in Highworth Methodist Church the monthly ICC prayer meeting will be focussing on the imminent election. As Christians it is important that we exercise our right to vote in a responsible way, and we pray for guidance at this important time for our town and our country.

HIGHWORTH ICC HOLIDAY CLUB UPDATE

A big thank you to all those people who have already come forward, however we still need people for all aspects of holiday club. There are two roles that we urgently need to fill - Group Leader for the 5-6 year-olds and Worship/Music leader. For further details please speak to Lesley Uzzell, or contact Sarah Heppenstall & Chris Speller (Holiday Club Co-ordinators). We will soon let you know what we need to collect for the crafts and also send out a prayer card. In the meantime please continue to pray for this outreach.

GRAHAM KENDRICK CONCERT

There will be an evening with singer/songwriter Graham Kendrick featuring his solo acoustic songs in Wantage on May 18th starting at 7.30pm. Performed with passion by the man who authored them, in the acoustic style that suits them best, these songs make up a very special concert. Tickets (£9) are available from the Cornerstone Coffee & Christian Book Shop in Wantage - call in (9.30-4 Mon-Fri, 10-4 Sat) or write to: 10 Savile Way, Grove, Wantage, OX12 0PT, telephone: 01235 772280, or email: events@cornerstonegrove.org.uk

Proceeds will support the work of Compassion International in sponsoring children overseas and of the work of Cornerstone Christian Centre in Grove.