

Our 10.15am Sunday Service

Welcome

Song A 1,000 Hallelujahs

Introduction to the Theme

Children and Young People leave for Groups

Song Open our eyes, Lord

Confession

Collect

Reading: Psalm 23

Gospel Reading: John 10: 1-21

Sermon

Song The King of love my shepherd is

Affirmation of Faith

Prayers

Offertory

The Peace

Song The Lord's my shepherd

Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of Bread

Distribution of Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Church Family News and Banns of Marriage

Song King of love and grace

Closing Prayers

Blessing

Dismissal

Services:

Follow on YouTube by searching for
St Michael's Church Highworth

This week and upcoming

Sunday 26th April

10.15am Holy Communion

Monday 27th April

10-11.30am Toddler Group in Church

7-9.30pm HCS Rehearsal in Church

7.30pm Prayer Hour in Church Room

Tuesday 28th April

9.30am Morning Prayers in Church

10.30am Meet Greet Eat in Church

6.30pm Regency Dancing in Church Room

7-8.30pm Youth Group in Church

Wednesday 29th April

7-9pm Highworth Council Hustings in Church

Thursday 30th April

7.30pm Bellingring Practice

Friday 1st May

9.15am Friday Blessings

4-6.30pm Visit Highworth Craft Fair Set Up

Saturday 2nd May

7.30am-6.30pm Visit Highworth Craft Fair

St Michael's to provide refreshments through the day from 10am to raise funds for church

Sunday 3rd May

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15am Morning Worship

Thursday 14th May

7pm Ascension Day Service in Church



Sunday 26th
April 2026

When I was at school, I got a job one summer holiday working on a farm where animals were brought to fatten up before going to market. I got to know how sheep behave.

While they were in their pens or being guided from place to place, they were reasonably calm and well-behaved. But left to their own devices they were, not to put too fine a point on it, daft! They were forever getting into difficulties and scrapes from which they couldn't extract themselves.

It was often my job to pull yet another sheep out of a hedge or ditch that they had got stuck in. Occasionally, sadly, it was also my job to collect one that died. I found sheep farming was a tough job, and that was in rural Essex! Just try imagining what it was like for the shepherd boy, David, back in ancient Israel.

That is the starting point for our exploration of the Bible during our Sunday service this week.

Phil Sapwell

Join us for Prayer

Prayer Hour:

The next prayer hour is on Monday 27th April
at 7.30pm in the Church Room.

Please do consider joining us.

It is vital that we join together to pray for our
church, our community and the wider world.

Tuesday Prayers:

Prayers are held in church every

Tuesday morning from 9.30am.

We come together to pray for the week ahead.

Friday Blessings:

Blessings are held in church every Friday
morning from 9.15-9.45am. It is a time for
everyone to come together to bless the Town.

Get in touch

Parish of Highworth with Sevenhampton & Inglesham

Ministry Enquiries: Telephone: 07841 106717

Rev Phil Goodey (day off Friday)

Email: rector@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Rev Andy Bissex (day off Wednesday)

Email: curate@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Administration/General Enquiries:

(including baptisms, weddings, funerals etc.)

Church Office: Telephone: 01793 762702

Email: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Website: stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Bulletin: bulletin.stmichaels@yahoo.com

Copy deadline is 12pm Thursday

For Prayer

Glory to you O Lord!

You have triumphed over the powers of darkness
and brought us to share in the inheritance
of your saints in light.

Raise us up to newness of life,
that we may live to serve you, risen Lord,
who with the Father and the life-giving Spirit
are one God, world without end.

Amen.

May God bless our town,
and those who live in
Goodson Lane and Grange Close

Prayer Chain:

To commit to join the prayer chain or if you have
something for which you would like specific
or urgent prayer, please email
smprayerchain@yahoo.com
All requests are confidential.

News and Events

St Michael's Church Fundraiser

Highworth Town May Day is on Saturday 2nd
May. This year we have mixed things up and will
be holding a craft fair (hosted by Visit
Highworth) whilst St Michael's provide the
refreshments between 10am-3pm. We will have
some seating by the kitchen and will provide take
away options too.

There is a sign up sheet in the church.

All cake donations will be very welcome.

Biscuits

If you would like biscuits with your coffee on
Sunday please do bring some along as we have
run out. Many thanks.

Electoral Roll - IMPORTANT

2026 is an update to the existing electoral roll.
Many people didn't realise it was a completely
new roll last year and didn't complete a new
form.

If you are not on the electoral roll (current roll
available at the back of church) and would like to
be, there is opportunity to complete a form
between 3rd and 15th May.

Forms and the electoral roll box will be at the
back of church during this period.

If you have any queries please contact Julie in
the office.

Office Closure Dates

The office is closed this week on Tuesday 28th
and Wednesday 29th April.

Emails and telephone will be monitored.

Curates Corner (Rev'd Andy Bissex)

Slow TV

Is it me but since Covid, our TV screens seem to be filled with a propensity of farming programmes. From 'Reuben's life in the Dales' (a spin off from the highly successful 'Our Yorkshire Farm'), to the eighth series of 'This Farming Life' (BBC2 and iPlayer This Farming Life), we seem to be fixated with these very positive forms of escapism (well I am anyway).

For me it's gentle programming which kind of washes over you - helping you to relax and be calm. I think they call it 'slow tv'.

Some years ago World Vision conducted a global survey asking people what their favourite Bible passage is.

World Vision UK <https://www.worldvision.org.uk>

The most popular Bible verse in every country

Here in the UK, one of today's readings, Psalm 23, got a lot of votes.

Just like 'slow tv', it's one of those passages from Scripture which we can just let wash over us.

It speaks for itself and needs no commentary.

Here it is in its traditional form:

Psalm 23

'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

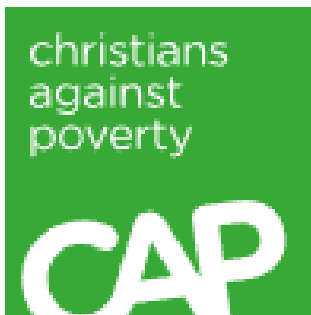
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.'

This week, why not read Psalm 23 each morning and each evening and in doing so allow the love and presence of The Good Shepherd to wash over you and bring you peace.



Diocese of Bristol Vacancies

The Diocese have a number of vacancy so if you know of anyone looking for a new role please do direct them to:

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/vacancies-xdb/diocesan-and-support-services-staff-vacancies/>

Eco Tip

Use greener methods to clear drains

While powerful liquid drain unblockers are handy in an emergency, many are harmful to aquatic life.

With a little regular maintenance, however, you should be able avoid having to use them too often. Clear a stubborn drain by pouring 125g of bicarbonate of soda down it followed by 125ml vinegar.

Cover with a wet cloth, wait 5 minutes, and then flush with hot water.

To keep sinks and basins draining freely, pour a mug of soda crystals down the plughole regularly, then flush with boiling water.

CAP Prayers

Please make a note of our next CAP prayer gatherings in your diaries.

It would be wonderful to have you there with us petitioning heaven for our precious clients.

However if you can't make them all don't worry - come when you can!

These are all at the Bridge Centre.

Monday 18th May	12.30 - 1.30pm
Monday 22nd June	2-3pm
Tuesday 28th July	2-3pm
Monday 24th August	2-3pm