

# Our 10.15am Sunday Service

Welcome

Opening Prayer

**Song** This is amazing grace

**Song** This is the story of the cross

*Introduction to the theme*

Confession

Absolution

*Affirmation of Faith by singing*

**Song** This I believe

Reading Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel Reading Matthew 3: 13-end

*Talk*

**Song** on Jordon's bank the Baptist's cry

Prayers

The Peace

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Invitation to Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Church Family News

**Song** How deep the Father's love for us

Blessing

After the service please join us for refreshments, and remember there are people willing to pray with you in confidence.

## Online Services:

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

## This week and upcoming

### Sunday 11th January

10.15am Holy Communion

### Monday 12th January

10-11.30am Toddler Group in Church

2.30pm Fabric Team Meeting in Church Room

7-9.30pm HCS Rehearsal in Church

7.30pm Prayer Hour in Church Room

### Tuesday 13th January

9.30am Morning Prayers in Church

6.30pm Regency Dancing in Church Room

7-8.30pm Youth Group in Church

### Wednesday 14th January

2-4pm Prospect Pop In in Church Room

6.30-9.30pm HCC Creative Prayer Evening in Church

### Thursday 15th January

7.30pm Bellringing Practice

### Friday 16th January

9.15am Friday Blessings in Church

### Saturday 17th January

9am-6pm Highworth Choral Society Come & Sing in Church

### Sunday 18th January

8.30am Holy Communion

10.15am Morning Worship

### Monday 19th January

7-9.30pm HCS Rehearsal in Church

7.30pm PCC Meeting in Church Room

### Wednesday 21st January

11am Midweek Church

*Coffee and cake served from 10.15am*

*prior to the Service*

### Saturday 24th January

10am-12pm Coffee Morning in Church Room



## Sunday 11th January 2026

### What is Baptism today?

- Is it necessary to be baptised in order to be a Christian?
- Is it necessary to be baptised for God to love you?
- Why were you baptised and what difference did it make you?

In the gospel story today we are hearing again the story of Jesus' baptism. Baptism would not have made Jesus any closer to God. In fact John tries to put him off, as John's baptism was for the forgiveness of sins which Jesus didn't need. (It was part of a ritual that sinful Jews went through). But today we believe that Jesus has taken away our sins so, do we need to be baptised today?

Lots of questions, and today I hope to give you some answers.

**Phil Goodey**

# Join us for Prayer

## Prayer Hour:

The next prayer hour is on Monday 12th January 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](mailto:rector@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

Rev Andy Bissex (day off Wednesday)

Email: [curate@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](mailto:curate@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

**Administration/General Enquiries:**

(including baptisms, weddings, funerals etc.)

**Church Office:** Telephone: 01793 762702

Email: [office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

**Website:** [stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](http://stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

**Bulletin:** [bulletin.stmichaels@yahoo.com](mailto:bulletin.stmichaels@yahoo.com)

Copy deadline is 12pm Thursday

# For Prayer

Holy Father  
who at the baptism of your beloved Son,  
revealed his glory,  
grant us a glimpse of that glory in our lives;  
That we may be ever immersed in your presence,  
Father,  
with the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever.

Amen

## *May God give his peace to those in special need:*

waiting for hospital treatment, or terminally ill;  
those who are bereaved, anxious, or depressed;

May God bless our town, and those who live in  
Biddell Springs and Blandford Alley

*Lord, you are ever watchful  
and bless us with your gifts;  
as you provide for our needs,  
so help us to build only what pleases you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## 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](mailto:smprayerchain@yahoo.com) All requests are confidential.

# News and Events

## Coffee Mornings

Just a reminder coffee mornings are now held on the second Saturday in the church at the usual monthly drop in and the fourth Saturday in the church room in support of Christian Aid.

## Christian Aid Christmas Appeal Coffee Morning - No Crib for a Bed

Many thanks for all those who attended our Christian Aid Christmas Appeal coffee morning on December 13th. This was supporting No Crib for a Bed centred around fleeing mothers and their children in war torn zones like the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We raised £121.12 in cash and we also had donations online made on the day. Your gift will be making a difference as it supports a refugee family to buy nutritious meals, medicine and blankets.

So thank you and Happy New Year from St Michaels Christian Aid Reps and Team.

## Eco Tip - Quick wins at home

The Energy Saving Trust suggests the typical home can save £270 per year, and associated carbon emissions, from some fairly simple, quick wins. Top of the list are using smart heating controls and turning down the thermostat.

# *Curates Corner*

## **Epiphany - three voices and a dove**

On Monday Helen and I went on our usual afternoon walk which takes us around the lake and onwards around the 'long walk' at Lydiard Park.  
I think it's been many years since I've seen the lake at Lydiard frozen over.

In today's Gospel reading we find Jesus coming to be baptised in the water by John. (Matthew 3.13-17)

In the passage we hear three voices - that of John wondering why Jesus should be baptised (v.14) especially as he (Jesus), does not need it.

John's baptism was a baptism of repentance - signifying a turning away from (that unpopular idea of ) sin and turning to God.

Jesus was perfect and sinless so why the need?

The other voice we hear is that of God the Son. (v.15), telling us of why he needs to be baptised.

Jesus' baptism is a baptism not of repentance, but of identification.

Jesus is looking to the cross where he identifies with us.

Where he, as the sinless one, would 'become sin for us' (2 Corinthians 5.21).

The other voice we hear is from God the Father who proclaims the Sonship of Jesus.

We also see God the Holy Spirit in action in the form of a dove ( v.16).

The whole Trinity is up front and on display!

Later in Matthew's Gospel, we hear God the Father affirming God the Son, this time with the added command to 'listen to him'. Matthew 17. 1-8

As we get into 2026 proper whose voice(s) are you listening to?

May you listen to the only voice which is ultimately important and the one that really matters - the voice of Jesus. The one who speaks to you and says:

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11.28)

How do we hear Jesus speak to us? It's through the Bible. Here's a few places online where you can access Bible Reading Plans,

The Bible Project

Bible.com (You Version)

Bible Gateway [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Bible In A Year Daily Readings

Keep listening ...

*Rev. Andy*



We are looking for more people to join the volunteer team.

If you are interested in finding out more about helping please do speak with Julie in the office, Phil G, Jo Vizor or one of the duty wardens:

Some of the things we need help with:  
welcoming people on Sunday morning,  
serving refreshments at Saturday Drop In and Sunday morning,  
helping with Communion,  
setting up and putting away chairs on Sunday's and for other Church events,  
helping with toddlers, Sunday children's groups and Tuesday youth group,  
catering for Church events  
putting out the bins and recycling



### Youth and Families Worker

We are recruiting for a full time youth and families worker. Full details, including an application pack are on the church website:

<https://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk/jobs>

Please do pass on to anyone you know who may be interested in applying.

If you would like more information please do speak to Jo or Bella.

### From the Deanery

**New Testament in a Nutshell**  
**St Mary's Purton**  
**31st January 10am-4.30pm**

The New Testament is well known, however the context can often be missed.

Relax and enjoy the journey as an experienced guide encourages you to see God's Word through the 'Big Picture'.

Our fun and memorable sessions will help you learn with such clarity you'll be able to retell the whole Storyline to a friend. We will also do our best to inspire and equip you to keep digging deeper.

St Mary's Church, Church End,  
Purton, SN5 4EB  
Cost £19 including workbook and bread and soup lunch.  
Free for children 11-18 if accompanied by an adult.

Book at [www.Bible.org.uk](http://www.Bible.org.uk)  
or from Ian Tweedie-Smith 01793 770077  
[vicarage@tweediesmith.co.uk](mailto:vicarage@tweediesmith.co.uk)