

THE LENT APPEAL

Today is Palm Sunday – one week before Easter. We hope your Lent boxes are filling rapidly! Please remember to bring your boxes and Gift Aid envelopes to church, or to the Parish Office, before Easter. If you are a taxpayer, you could count up the contents of your box and put a cheque for that amount in a Gift Aid envelope, thereby increasing the value of your contribution to charity.

CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT AT OUR CHURCH!

On Wednesday the PCC considered a draft policy on children and young people at St Michael's. Copies of the revised version of the draft are available at the back of the church – please take one and send any comments to the Rector. We would also like to hear your opinions and suggestions about how we cater for families and children. Pick up a questionnaire from the back of church and put it in the Black box or hand in to the office. Finally, the PCC agreed that the Family Service will now run twice per month from April, on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11.15. We are particularly hoping to attract new families, including those who have had children baptised and those whose children attend local schools. Do invite your friends who have primary school age children to come!

PALM SUNDAY MUSIC AND MEDITATION

This Sunday, there will be a service of music sung by the choir, hymns and readings from biblical and non-biblical sources for the beginning of Holy Week at 6.30 pm. Put it in your diary now!

EMMAUS COURSE AND CONFIRMATION

The Emmaus course is an introduction to the basics of the Christian faith: what Christians believe, how Christians grow spiritually, and how Christians live. It is suitable for those who are unsure what they believe and for those who would like to look afresh at things they have taken on trust for some time. It also counts as preparation for Confirmation (there will be a service of Confirmation here on Sunday 8th June). Please pick up a green leaflet at the back of the church, and return the form to register your interest.

YOUTH NEWS

Good Friday Youth Vigil, begins Thursday 20th at 9pm and ends at 7am Friday 21st. Cost will be £5, for more info, speak to Ben Askew or George Castle. Next youth social will be a trip to the Big Apple in Wokingham for Lazer Quest on Saturday 5th April. Cost will be £7.25 for 2 games. Watch this space for more information. The next Informal Service is on Easter Sunday at 7pm.

CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

As part of our exploration of the subject of children being admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation, there will be a sermon on the subject on Sunday 30th March at the 8.00 and 9.30 services, followed by an open discussion after the 9.30 service. Bishop Stephen's paper on the theological basis for this is available at the back of church. THANK YOU to those who have written to express their opinion on this subject. So far all letters received are *against* the idea! If you are *in favour*, please will you also write to say so, and why. The PCC will be considering whether to go ahead with this proposal on 14th May.

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

Your donations for Easter Lilies are now invited. The suggested amount this year is £3.50. Please sign the form at the back of Church and take an envelope for your donation. This should be returned to the Parish Office or a Church Warden, thank you.



COFFEE SPOT APPEAL

We still desperately need volunteers to help in the coffee spot. Anyone aged 16 or over and willing to give a couple of hours of their time would be most welcome.

COFFEE ROTA

There have been quite a number of occasions when people have not turned up to do the coffee rota. Please could you swap with someone if you are unable to come, if the coffee time after 9.30 service is to continue. Thank you very much to all the coffee volunteers.

THANK YOU



Roy Pidgeon has been tidying up our churchyard week in, week out for the past 10 years, dealing with dead floral tributes, leaves etc. He is finally hanging up his gloves. Well done, Roy and a big thank you from us all!

QUIZ EVENING

The quiz evening organised by the fair-trade group was a great success both for fellowship, raising funds, we raised £665 for the church, and raising awareness for the need for fair-trade. Looking through the parish calendar it is clear that there aren't enough social events going on. If you have any ideas for social events then please gather a group of people round you, speak to John or the churchwardens and make it happen.

John White