

NOTICES

THIS WEEK:

Mon	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting, St Michael's Vicarage
Tues	8pm	Hammersmith & Fulham Deanery meeting, All Saints Fulham
Thurs	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation Group, St Stephen's
	7 pm	Lent Course, The Vicarage

NEXT MONTH - Confirmations at St Paul's 22 March at 7pm

NEXT SUNDAY: **2 March 2008** **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
Mothering Sunday

10 am ALL AGE WORSHIP

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo
 1 Samuel 16.1-13 (p 119), Ephesians 5.8-14 (p 121) John 9.1-41 (p 122)

Sunday School meets in St Stephen's school

Sunday Youth meets in the Glebe Maisonette

Small Children are welcome to play in St Thomas's Chapel, near the porch

Baptised Communicants of other Churches are encouraged to receive communion

Children and other non-communicants are invited to come to the altar for a blessing

The Ministry of Healing is offered in the Chapel, after Communion is given

What about today's Gospel

1. What did Jesus ask the woman to give him?
2. What does Jesus tell the woman he would have given her if she had asked him?
3. A huge disagreement between Samaritans and Jews was where God was to be worshiped - in the local hills of Samaria, or only in the Temple in Jerusalem. Where did Jesus say we should all worship God?
4. How did the Samaritans treat Jesus at that time?

Photos of the Felbury Trip last year are now available on the web site

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for

- The sick and suffering: especially Felix Okike, Lucilda Bernard, Joan Andrew, Elizabeth Dorsett, Ivy Smith, Susie Leach, Norbert Edwards, Brother Paul Anthony, Sylvia Steed, Caroline Nevill, Tracey Davies, Esmay Young, Roger Cox, Pam Coelho, Althea Ferns, Dorian Henry, Detroy Henry.

- The recently departed, especially Alberta Folson, and her family and friends and all those who mourn her passing.



Parish of St Stephen & St Thomas
 with St Michael & St George

BUSH TELEGRAPH

24 February 2008
Third Sunday of Lent

Visit the church web site at www.ststephensw12.org.
 You can read all the latest news about the parish.
 You can also read the sermons which are posted each week

Today gives you an opportunity to welcome Rev Donald Reece, my predecessor as vicar at St Stephen's. I am grateful to him for all the work he did in the area and I know that he and his wife, Julia, still have close relationships with many of you. I am taking the chance of a weekend away before the Easter period kicks in.

This is the third week of Lent. How are you getting on with your Lent pledges? We are meeting at the vicarage on Thursdays at 7 pm to look at the Lord's Prayer. You are welcome to come even if you haven't been before.

March is a busy month in the church life.

1. Next Sunday (March 2nd) is Mothering Sunday. There has been some discussion over whether this should be a pet service. This idea has been postponed to give us the opportunity to celebrate mothers and all they do for us. In a ground-breaking move, we are going to have visual intercessions screened for us to follow. If you are intrigued and want to know more see you next Sunday.

2. On March 16th we are celebrating Palm Sunday and it is our annual stewardship Sunday. I am thrilled that more and more people are coming to St Stephen's but I need more help in the jobs needed to run the church. At the moment we have more consumers but no more producers and so I will be asking you to think about how you could help. If you have not already done so, could you think of giving to the church by standing order. I don't mind how little it is each week but it helps us to know our regular income. We are skint and need help to pay our bills. At the same time we are in a fabulous position to make a distinctive contribution to the wider community in Shepherd's Bush.

3. We are beginning to plan for Easter day (March 23rd). The 10 am Easter Day Eucharist will be a hat parade. This will be followed by a party at the Vicarage. Why should Christmas Day have all the best celebrations when it is at Easter that we celebrate the resurrection. Michael, Olu, Christine, Pia and Kevin are meeting next week to discuss the party. If you are in London over that weekend make sure you stay for the party and celebrate with us.

4. Our annual church meeting is on Sunday 30 March immediately after the service. It is open to everyone but I need to get those of you who are not already on the electoral roll to sign up. If you have not formally registered yourself as wanting to be a part of the church can you please fill in the form at the back of the church or download it from the web site.

Processional Hymn **530** **Now thank we all our God**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, those most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading **Exodus 17.1-7** **(p.113)**

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Second Reading **Romans 5.1-5** **(p.115)**

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Gradual Hymn **412** **Dear Lord, we long to see your face**

GOSPEL **John 4.5-24** **(p.116)**

⁵Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things

in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'

*Amazing love, oh what sacrifice
The Son of God, given for me
My debt He paid, and my death He died
That I might live, that I might live*

Offertory Hymn **612** **We have a gospel to proclaim**

Communion Hymn **Taize**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Recessional Hymn **598** **There's a wideness in God's mercy**

Coffee in Church after the service