

NOTICES

THIS WEEK:

Thurs 6.30 pm Christian Meditation Group, St Stephen's
7 pm Lent Course, The Vicarage

THIS MONTH

Confirmations at St Paul's 22 March at 7pm

NEXT SUNDAY: 9th March 2008 Fifth Sunday of Lent

10 am SUNG EUCHARIST

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo
Ezekiel 37.1-14 (p130), Romans 8.6-11 (p 132), John 11.1-45 (p 133)

*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*

Church Electoral Roll

The Church's Electoral Roll is our membership list (and nothing to do with Local Council or Government elections). If you attend St Stephen's regularly or consider it to be your church, your name can be added to the list. You have to be at least 16 years of age to belong, and membership gives you the right to vote for and sit on the Committee that runs the St Stephen's. Please ask one of the church officers for a form to complete. The form may also be downloaded from the web site This is also an opportunity to update your contact details if they have recently changed.

Home Communion – Available to any unable to come on a Sunday. Talk to Father Bob (8743 3166) if you or anyone else might be interested.

Any enquiries about pastoral concerns, baptisms, weddings or funerals please get in touch with Father Bob. The only time that Bob will be unavailable is between Friday pm and Sunday am.



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

BUSH TELEGRAPH
2 March 2008
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday
ALL AGE WORSHIP

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

Elaine Yoda who has been the Youth Worker with the Church for the last three years is (sadly) leaving after three years. She will be greatly missed and will be using Easter Sunday as her chance to say 'goodbye'

This is the fourth 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 9th) we have 23 Norwegian students visiting us and sharing in our Sunday service. Their interest in us is that we are operating a traditional model of community and family church. We have services that cater for all ages and all different types of people. A lot of the current thinking is that churches should target different groups of people. We are distinctive because we do not try to do this. Please make them all welcome.
2. Next Sunday, March 9th, we are also being visited by my mum. I will need to be on my best behaviour and make sure you tell her what a great vicar you have.
3. 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.
4. 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 after the service today to discuss the party. If you are in London over that weekend make sure you stay for the party and celebrate with us.

5. 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.

Processional Hymn **581** **Take my life, and let it be**

Collect of the Day

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading **1 Samuel 16.1-13** **(p.119)**

¹The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' ⁵He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD.' ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.'

Second Reading **Ephesians 5.8-14** **(p.121)**

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Gradual Hymn **308** **Just as I am, without one plea**

GOSPEL **Luke 2:32-35**

He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!" Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. **35** As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

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, Mary Rodney, Esmey Fairburn and Esmee Young

Offertory Hymn **470** **I, the Lord of sea and sky**

Communion Hymn **Taize**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Recessional Hymn **Shine Jesus Shine**

Lord the light or your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining,
Jesus light of the world shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me. shine on me.
Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land with the fathers glory
Blaze, spirit blaze,
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord and let there be light.
Lord I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance,
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me. shine on me.
As we gaze on your kindly brightness.
So our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.

Shine on me. shine on me.