

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: 16 March 2008 Palm Sunday

10 am SUNG EUCHARIST

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo
Isaiah 50.4-9a (p139), Philippians 2.5-11 (p140), Matthew 27.11-54 (p147)

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 say was the purpose of Lazarus' illness?
2. Did the disciples want to go Bethany?
3. Who encouraged the disciples to go to Bethany?
4. What did Martha say to Jesus?
5. What did Jesus tell Martha?

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, Althea Ferns, Dorian Henry, Detroy Henry. Mary Rodney, Esme Hoyte, Esme Fairburn

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

**9 March 2008
Fifth 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**

Welcome to our friends from Norway who are joining us today for our Sunday worship. Tucked away in the fjords of Norway they have heard about what is happening at St Stephens and wanted to come and find things out for themselves. They have read some of the work published by Sylvie and I (Making Sense of Generation Y) and have come because they want to find out more.

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 fifth week of Lent. How are you getting on with your Lent pledges?

On March 16th we are celebrating Palm Sunday and it is our annual stewardship Sunday.

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, if you are in London over that weekend make sure you stay for the party and celebrate with us.

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. 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.

Processional Hymn

400

City of God, how broad and far

Collect of the Day

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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

Ezekiel 37.1-14

(p.130)

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.' ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Gradual Hymn

416

Father, hear the prayer we offer

GOSPEL

John 11.1-45

(p.133)

¹A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹²The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' ¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of

the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Offertory Hymn

606

Thy hand, O God, has guided

Communion Hymn

Taize

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Recessional Hymn

160

Thine be the glory

Coffee in Church after the service