

THIS WEEK:

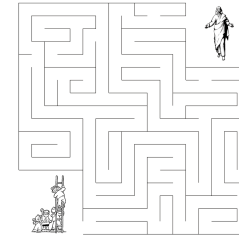
Thurs 6.30 pm Christian Meditation Group, St Stephen's

THIS MONTHParochial Church Council Tuesday April 22, 7.30pm at St Stephen's
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 27 April, 12.30pm at St Michael's **Please note change of date.****NEXT MONTH**

St Stephen's Committee Monday 12 May, 7.30pm at St Stephen's.

NEXT SUNDAY: 27 April 2008 Sixth Sunday of Easter**10 am SUNG EUCHARIST**Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo
Acts 17.22-31 (p 236), 1 Peter 3.13-22 (p 238), John 14.15-21(p 239)*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***Diocesan Events****London Diocese Fairtrade Day:** 12 July**Christian Aid Week:** 11-17 May - www.christianaid.org.uk**Environment Sunday:** 3 June - <http://en.arochoa.org/ukconsunday/index2.html>**Refugee Week:** 16-22 June - www.refugeeweek.org.uk**Global Day of Prayer in London:** 11 May**JustShare May Day event:** annual event on 2 May at 12pm in the CityFor more information on Diocesan events visit the church web site www.stmg.org.uk**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.

**20 April 2008****Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Welcome to St Stephen & St Thomas Church
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

Please do give a big St Stephens welcome Dr James Heard this morning who has come from All Saints Fulham to take the service. I am away for a delayed post Easter break. I will in Oslo this weekend giving a paper at a conference in Oslo on how family life has changed shape but is as strong and robust as it has ever been

James will be baptising Poppy, the daughter of Ben and Jules Foster, at this morning's service.

We are twinned with St Michaels, a coingregation on the White City Estate. Together we form one parish. There are two meetings with St Michaels during the coming week. On Tuesday (April 22nd) there is a PCC meeting at the vicarage – food from 6.30 and the meeting at 7.30.

Next Sunday (27th April) we have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting after the service at St Michael's.

More actual signs found on church property.

"God so loved the world that He did not send a committee."

"Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!"

"Fight truth decay-study the Bible daily."

Processional Hymn 474**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have

overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading **Acts 7.55-60** **(p.232)**

Standing before the high priest and the council, ⁵⁵Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Second Reading **(p.233)**

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gradual Hymn **537**

GOSPEL **John 14.1-14** **(p.234)**

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in me also. ² "There are many rooms in my Father's house. If this were not true, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am. ⁴ "You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. So how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father also. From now on, you do know him. And you have seen him." ⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father. That will be enough for us." ⁹ Jesus answered, "Don't you know me, Philip? I have been among you such a long time! Anyone

who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ "Don't you believe that I am in the Father? Don't you believe that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. The Father lives in me. He is the One who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say I am in the Father. Also believe that the Father is in me. Or at least believe what the miracles show about me. ¹² "What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. In fact, he will do even greater things. That is because I am going to the Father. ¹³ "And I will do anything you ask in my name. Then the Son will bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name. I will do it.

*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*

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for

- Poppy Foster and her parents and godparents
- 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

Offertory Hymn **558**

Communion Hymn **386**

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Recessional Hymn **498**