

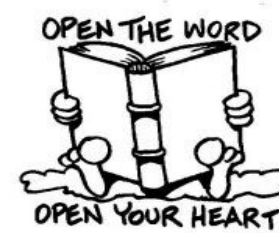
**THIS WEEK:**

Thurs 6.30 pm Christian Meditation Group, St Stephen's

**NEXT SUNDAY: 4 May 2008 Pentecost 1****10 am ALLAGE WORSHIP**Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo  
Acts 2.1-21 (p249), 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13(p253), John 20.19-23 (p254)*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***Annual Parochial Church Meeting Today**This will take place TODAY at St Michael's commencing at 12.30 pm. All welcome.  
The following have been nominated for election:

Churchwarden	Marjorie Bedassee
Deputy Churchwarden	Michael Melichar
PCC	Barry Clarke, Fiona Minors, Tim Turnbull, Juliet Byford, Elwyn Taylor
SSCC	Cosmo and Edie Lush, Caroline Allen, Viola Lindsey, Phillippa Robb, Paula Aitcheson Walker

**Ordination of Deacons at St Paul's Cathedral on 28th June** – the Bishop and Diocese have requested that the music be provided by singers from parish choirs to make this truly a diocesan service. If any experienced singers would like to join the choir for this occasion please email the Parish Secretary for more information.



**27 April 2008**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Welcome to St Stephen & St Thomas Church**  
**Visit the church web site at [www.ststephensw12.org](http://www.ststephensw12.org).**  
**You can read all the latest news about the parish.**  
**You can also read the sermons which are posted each week**

**The 14<sup>th</sup> and last Meeting of the  
Hammersmith and Fulham Deanery Synod 2005 – 2008 will be held at St  
Stephens on Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup> @7.30 for 8.00**

Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> is the Ascension Day. There will be a Holy Communion Service at 7.30pm. After Jesus' resurrection he spent 40 days meeting with people and teaching them about the things of the kingdom. The Ascension is the day when he finally returns to heaven.

Today is the second in a series of sermons looking at the verse 'God loves a cheerful giver'. I am asking the question what type of church we want to be as we meet together Sunday by Sunday. I would like people to give to the church by standing order. Some people ask me if we can have a crèche. Others would like to see a second service on Sunday mornings.

**Processional Hymn**

## Collect of the Day

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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

**Acts 17.22-31**

**(p.)**

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

## Second Reading

**2 Corinthians 9: 6-14**

**(p )**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

## Gradual Hymn

## GOSPEL

**John 14.15-21**

**(p.)**

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>15</sup>‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

*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

- 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

## Communion Hymn

## Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## Recessional Hymn

*Coffee in Church after the service*