

THIS WEEK:

Thurs 6.30 pm Christian Meditation Group, St Stephen's

NEXT SUNDAY:**10 am SUNG EUCHARIST**

Celebrant and Preacher – Rev Simon Downham

Romans 8.1-11 (p307), Matthew 13.1-9,18-23 (p308)

*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***6 July 2008**
Seventh Sunday after Trinity
All Age Worship

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

Sylvie and I are away on holiday. Today we welcome Rev Niall Weir vicar of St Barnabas and St Pauls (West Hackney) as our celebrant and preacher. I am sure that you will give him a big St Stephens welcome and that Niall will explain what it is that has brought him across London this morning.

I am gathering names for people who are interested in being confirmed later in the year. Confirmation is the Church of England version of adult baptism. It is a chance to explore the Christian faith further, to go to a big service, to have your family make a fuss of you and to meet the Bishop of London. If you are interested let me know 07969 090907.

Would you like to become a Chaplaincy volunteer at Charing Cross Hospital? You would visit and chat to people who were in the hospital. If you are interested please ring either Rev Christopher Guinness (02088461041) or Father Nigel Griffin (02088461042). You could be linked either with Charing Cross Hammersmith or Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

It's a crazy world: The US owes the United Nations more than a billion dollars in unpaid dues.

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.

Processional Hymn 400 City of God how broad and far

Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish

us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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 **Romans 7.15-25a** (p.)

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gradual Hymn **390 Blessed assurance Jesus is mine**

GOSPEL **Matthew 11.16-19,25-30** (p.)

At that time Jesus said, ¹⁶‘To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

²⁵I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

*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, 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 **411 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**

Communion Hymn **393 & 386**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Recessional Hymn **432 From heaven you came helpless babe**

Coffee in Church after the service

