

THIS WEEK:

Thurs 6.30 pm Christian Meditation Group, St Stephen's

NEXT SUNDAY: 3 August 2008 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**10 am ALL AGE WORSHIP**

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo

Romans 9.1-5 (p325) Matthew 14.13-21 (p326)*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***Area & Diocesan Events****Kensington Area Conference 2008 - 27th September 10.30am - 4.00pm**

This day will be led by John Truscott, a professional church trainer, and held at St. Augustine, Queensgate. - the day will focus on P.C.C's and lay leadership.

***New Church Officers Evening - 25th September at 8.00pm** St Mary's, Spring Grove, Osterley This is an opportunity for all those newly appointed at their APCM this year to learn more about the role you have been appointed to and to find out more about the workings of the Kensington Episcopal Area and the Diocese of London.

For more information and events visit the church web site – Things to Come To.

Water Company Policy As some of you may be aware, the Water Companies are starting to charge Churches for the amount of water that will be discharged into the sewer network from church and church hall sites; i.e. they are withdrawing the charitable discount that has been in force. This will effectively raise most churches water bill by hundreds if not thousands of pounds. The charge will depend on surface area involved e.g. not just roofs but car parks, any areas where the water doesn't drain in to the soil There is an online government petition on which you can register; the more signatures there are the better! Go to <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/ChurchWaterBills> to sign the petition.**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.



27 July 2008

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

We are planning a parish outing to Brighton on August 16th. We have a minibus booked and we are taking names for people who would like to come. Please can you talk to Marjorie or I if you are interested.

The old vestry is being renovated over the summer to be used as a band practice space for hire and for a crèche for under 3s. We need religiously themed under 3 books, toys for the new crèche as well as helpers.

Please contact Nathalie on 07967967307

Lambeth Conference: Please carry on praying for all the Bishops

The Rt Rev Tom Wright, the Bishop of Durham, has revealed that there is deep unease over the future of the communion and an atmosphere of mutual suspicion among bishops. His comments come as about 650 bishops meet at the once-a-decade Lambeth conference in Canterbury, with continuing division over the issue of homosexuality.

Bishop Wright, a senior figure in the Church hierarchy, expressed concern that the summit was lacking direction and admitted that the Anglican Church was in a mess. "All sorts of forces have built up over the years in the communion through misunderstanding and people doing things differently without really consulting," he said. "Sooner or later this was all going to meet and hit the buffers. It's been like a slow-moving train wreck."

Processional Hymn

Collect of the Day

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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 **Genesis 29.15-28** (p315)

¹⁵Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. ²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' ²⁶Laban said, 'This is not done in our country giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.' ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Gradual Hymn

GOSPEL **Matthew 13.31-33,44-52** (p321)

³¹Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is

like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

⁴⁴The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

*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

Communion Hymn

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Recessional Hymn

Coffee in Church after the service